

Peace Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2018 6:00 PM

Present: John Voight, Elizabeth Stevens, Shannon Hofer, Jon Williams, Doug Price, ElizaBeth McCay, Jennie Carter, Pastor Lauren Miller, Crystal Pariseau, Tim Wessel, Sue Mueller. Absent: Vicar Melissa Woeppel. Guest: David Poole, Russ Strait, Angela and Clark Yarborough.

We gathered in the sanctuary for devotions and shared highs and lows.

Old Business

1. September minutes – minutes were reviewed, edited, and approved as amended.

New Business

1. Voices of the Congregation – Angela presented information about the Art Team, which works to enhance worship experience with visual arts, and their ideas for the narthex.

2. Pastor's report

- ❖ Christie Ridenhour and volunteers are organizing Peace's 35th Anniversary Celebration, held the weekend of February 10, 2019. We will have one worship service, and Pastor John Wertz (VA synod) will preach; Pastor John, and hopefully Pastor Stewart, will attend. We will ask every family to give \$35 to the mission fund in honor of our 35 years.
- ❖ We are hosting Daoud Nassar, Palestinian Christian farmer and Director of the Tent of Nations, an international peace center outside Bethlehem. He will give a presentation on Tuesday, November 13 at 7pm. (we will reschedule our council meeting for that night)
- ❖ Stewardship update: Sermons for the four weeks before Thanksgiving will focus on the four parts of our mission statement, culminating in a Thanksgiving service and potluck, hosted by 4th and 5th graders. This will also be pledging Sunday.
- ❖ Katrina is organizing an Event Choir for Reformation Sunday, October 28th.
- ❖ Our council retreat is on October 27th at Doug and Lydia Price's house. Sign up for food.
- ❖ Jennie reported on the youth groups. The new 4/5 grade youth group meets 1st and 3rd Sundays after service and expects 16-18 kids; a couple have brought friends from outside the church. Leaders are Susan Arnholt, Katrina Sutton, and John Leuttgen. The middle school group has about 7 youth; their monthly schedule will include two confirmation classes, one traditional youth group, and one service project. High school has 9 or 10 members; they also want to add a service component to their time together.
- ❖ Vicar Melissa is attending an intensive class at United Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. When she returns, she and Pastor Lauren will attend the Gathering of Ministerium on Monday, October 15. They will then travel to Chicago for the Hein-Fry Book of Faith Challenge where Vicar Melissa will represent ULS and present her project, which is the class she taught at Peace in May on Scripture, Women, and Justice.

3. Finance update

- ❖ Tim presented current financial statements and highlighted:
 - We have spent more on electricity than budgeted YTD; we will investigate this.
 - License and support, line item 92001, is higher because of 2 (Vanco?) accounts that need to be closed. Chris will investigate this.
 - At the end of the 3rd quarter, we are almost \$14K behind vs the budget. We expect the upcoming quarter will improve during the holidays, and we will catch up by the end of the year; we may still be around \$4K in the red at year end.
 - Bank assets are down to a concerning \$4872. We are now withholding all benevolence until this increases. Restricted accounts (designated) has over \$35K.
 - Third quarter statements will come out soon with a letter that explains our financial situation, Peace's ministries, and the money it takes do these ministries.
- ❖ Tim broke down our expenses and about 95% are fixed expenses. The % from this year's budget:

All Personnel is	60.48%
Mortgage is	16.10%
Utilities are	11.34%
All Benevolence is	<u>7.76%</u>
Which is	95.68% of the budget

Unless we change any of this (and the only thing that could be changed is personnel), all that's left in the budget to pay for worship, office supplies, & everything else is \$15,800.

- ❖ Fiscal year change: Carla and Chris looked into changing the fiscal year in Realm, but they could not change from a calendar year. Since we are entering a busy time and have other priorities, we will table this idea.
- ❖ Audit Committee: John Schmidt agreed to be a member of the audit committee. A vote was taken, and his appointment was approved.
- ❖ Portico benefits: Tim reviewed Pastor's medical insurance and retirement policies. Costs for medical premium will increase almost \$1800 if we stay at the platinum level. Pastor Lauren offered to take a step down to the Gold level, which is what most pastors have. This would be a \$2000 savings over Platinum and a \$200 savings over 2018. Pastor Lauren made a motion to change the policy to Gold level; this was seconded, discussed, and passed with one nay.
- ❖ Pastor's housing allowance: It was moved and seconded to approve Pastor Lauren's housing allowance of \$24,000 for next year. This is the same as last year.

4. Constitution wrap-up - No work has been completed this past month, so we will table this to next month. It was noted that in our constitution, our group is called "congregational council." Pastor John renamed it to Leadership Council. Do we want the naming aligned with our constitution?

5. Reschedule next meeting date: it was decided we would next meet on November 14, 2018. Note: the next meeting will include a detailed budget discussion to prepare for the 2019 budget. Tim made a point that most of our expenses are fixed, plus a percentage for benevolence. Looking at the budget as percentages is both helpful and scary to some people. This information can be presented in a matter-of-fact and positive way. ElizaBeth offered to help discuss this with the congregation.

Our December meeting is on the 11th. Council is doing coffee hour October 21.

Shannon closed us in prayer.