

Peace Lutheran Church Leadership Council
Meeting Minutes - June 5, 2018

Present: Doug Price, Crystal Pariseau, John Voight, Pastor Lauren, Elizabeth Stevens, Shannon Hofer, Chris Engel, Tom Czelusta, ElizaBeth McCay, Vicar Melissa, Sue Mueller. Absent: Jon Williams, Jennie Carter.

Council gathered in the sanctuary for a devotion by John on embracing change. Highs/lows were shared.

Old business

1. May minutes were reviewed, edited, and approved as amended.

Voices of the Congregation

We welcomed David Poole, Russ Strait, Laurel Olsen, Elsie Olsen, and Clark Yarborough. They were present to give their feedback and opinions about Council's decision to change worship times in the fall.

After our guests left, we discussed what we heard and how to communicate going forward, including the possibility of discussions during service or a town hall meeting.

New business

1. Constitution review.

Tim Wessel, Peggy Bizjak and Vicar Melissa presented their research and suggestions about how to update our constitution. We presently operate under a 2009 version of the model constitution plus bylaws and continuing resolutions. ELCA updates their model constitution every three years; we did not update our constitution in 2013 or 2016.

The team went through our current constitution and highlighted where we have inserted our bylaws (in yellow), where we have changed wording from the model constitution (in red), and where we have choices to make about procedures specific to our congregation (in green). Note that the bylaws have three sets of numbers; the model constitution items have two sets of numbers.

Going forward, every three years we can review and adapt the highlighted areas, then cut and paste them into the newest version of the ELCA model constitution in order to update. This should make the whole process easier.

Tim noted that we have to consider adding a statement creating the finance committee, since the finance committee is referenced in the bylaws. He also recommends considering having the treasurer be a council member (not the case now). Chapter 20 in the past constitution is not in the new model constitution and is not needed.

We would like to present the updated constitution to the congregation for a vote in December, so we have to send it to the VA Synod by September for approval. Please review your digital copies now.

2. Pastor's Report

- ❖ Pentecost worship went well, and Grace Kohler was confirmed. Thanks to the Art Team for decorations for Pentecost.
- ❖ VBS team is working hard preparing for July. Registrations are ahead of last year so far.
- ❖ Synod Assembly is this weekend. Pastor Lauren, Vicar Melissa and representatives will attend.

- ❖ We are sending off teams around the world in the next month. Next Sunday we will send off the SW VA mission team, the following Sunday we will send off the Honduras mission team, and the following Sunday we will send off the youth team to Houston.
- ❖ Planning has begun for our once a month Family Sunday School art program, now called “Create Peace.” Jen Brannock is the core leader, and she is helping to plan the school year (September to May). This program will bring people together after the second service to learn about faith in a new way. We are hoping that this program will be more accessible to members of the community who may be intimidated by traditional church but are willing to attend a VBS-type gathering.

3. Vicar’s Report

- ❖ Katrina, Pastor Lauren, and Vicar Melissa are planning summer worship.
- ❖ Started Wednesday night Bible Study on women and justice in the Bible. All welcome (5:45pm)
- ❖ Met with people interested in forming a “Creation Care Team” (care for the environment).
- ❖ Participated in youth prep for Houston.
- ❖ Melissa formally announced that she accepts the position of pastoral associate starting in August. Her vicar position will end on July 15, 2018, and council will host a reception for her on that day. Pastor Lauren notes that Melissa’s duties as associate pastor will change, as seminary learning will not be a part of her job as a staff member. Tom and Chris added that funding for the intern position is complete (\$35,430), although more funds may trickle in. Funding has been committed for August to December for the associate pastor position. Updates will be made to the congregation during services (Sue and Jon Williams were asked to do this).

4. Finance Report

Chris reviewed the 2018 budget. The income expected of \$366K comes out to \$30K per month and \$6750 per Sunday. Our income is 95% from offerings and 5% from building income. We are now on target for the year with income.

Expenses are mainly staff, mortgage/building/utilities, and benevolence; these areas are 85% of our budget. The pie chart presented shows how income is spent. Chris researched other churches and found that, on average, less than 20% is spent on mortgage (we spend 16%); 50% is average for staff (we spend 60%); benevolence averages 15% (our budget reflects 8%, but adding designated giving and Christmas Miracle Offering increases that greatly).

Council will begin our next budget discussions in September so we can finish by the end of the year. Our current budget has very little room for cutting.

Update: giving in April was very good (5 Sundays), but May was only \$26K (Memorial Day holiday reduced attendance). May expenses were under by \$5K, \$26K was given to designated funds, and we are \$600 in the black for YTD. Our checking account has \$19K; there is \$35K in the designated fund.

Designated check signers met at Suntrust Bank to update signature cards. (Chris, John, Jon, Tim, Sue)

John closed the meeting in prayer.

Next meeting is Tuesday, July 17, 2018, 6pm.

