

Church Council Update for Inside Immanuel Weekly – September 20, 2021

Council Members: Barb Schmidt-President, Tracie Johnson-Vice President, Les Gieselman-Secretary, Lynn Clark-Treasurer, Richard Keplinger, Don Stensaas, Kristi Toolson, Andrew White, and Pastor Paul Olsen

The Immanuel Lutheran Church (ILC) Council held a regular monthly Council Meeting on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5:30 PM via online Zoom meeting. Below is a recap of the meeting, pending Council approval:

- Richard Keplinger led devotions based on the Psalms.
- Adopted the Consent Agenda including Council Meeting Agenda (09-20-2021), Council Meeting Minutes (08-16-2021), Special Council Meeting Minutes (09-09-2021), Adult Education Committee Notes (02-10-2021 & 09-15-2021), Call Committee Attributes List (09-16-2021), Creative Worship Team Report (08-31-2021), Finance Committee Minutes (08-09-2021), Livestream/Internet Team Report (08-25-2021 & 09-15-2021), New American Ministry Report (09-14-2021), Property Committee Report (09-20-2021), Pastor's Monthly Report (September 2021), Worship Attendance Report (08-31-2021), and Food Fellowship Attendance Report (09-14-2021).
- Reviewed and approved the August 2021 Financial Reports:
 - General Fund income for August 2021 was \$1,416.64 less than expected and expense was \$1,40.81 more than expected. August 2021 income was a net loss of \$2,857.45 compared to net income of \$35,310.48 for August 2020. NOTE: there was a general fund contribution of \$37,899.16 in August 2020.
 - Year to date net income (January through August 2021) was \$37,957.31 compared to net income of \$20,698.14 for the same period in 2020.
- Approved scheduling the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 30, 2022 (after in-person worship service). Additional information will be forthcoming.
- Reviewed and approved the Endowment Committee Third Quarter 2021 Report.
- Received an update on the Stewardship Campaign for 2021. This year's campaign will begin mid-October and Stewardship (Commitment) Sunday will be November 14, 2021. Additional information will be forthcoming.
- Received an update on the Mission & Life Committee. They're making good progress and are on schedule to finish their work toward the end of October.
- Agreed on a list of potential Call Committee members. Council members will recruit six (6) committee members who will likely begin meeting in mid-late October.
- Reviewed and approved the preferred use of the Clarence Schlagel estate gift. This information will be reviewed with the Schlagel family and help clarify their wishes for using this very generous and heartfelt gift.
- Approved scheduling a *Special Congregational Meeting*, after the in-person worship service, on Sunday, October 24, 2021. The purpose of this meeting is to update the congregation on the Pastoral Call Process and obtain congregational approval of the proposed Pastoral Call Expenses. More information will be forthcoming.

- Agreed to postpone in-person Council Meetings (continue Zoom meetings) until community COVID-19 conditions improve.
- Reviewed the revised New American Ministry Policy (NAM-01) and agreed to postpone a decision until more information is available from the NAM team and a subgroup of Council members.
- Tracie Johnson, Barb Schmidt and Pastor Paul Olsen will represent Immanuel's Church Council at the Treasure Valley Cluster (ELCA) meeting on Saturday, September 25, 2021.
- With Memorial Committee recommendation, approved using Memorial funds to purchase a new paraffin oil Paschal candle for the Immanuel sanctuary. This will replace the more traditional beeswax candle which must be replaced every 2-3 years.
- With Finance Committee recommendation, approved a new *Fireproof File Cabinet Designated Fund* to receive & disburse funds from an anonymous donor to purchase a used fireproof file cabinet to safely store our secure documents.
- Agreed to request the Human Resources (HR) Committee to review current staffing needs, staff roles and responsibilities, then update the staff position descriptions (including a review of staff positions for potential continuing education funding) accordingly. The COVID-19 pandemic has substantially changed the work being done by our staff.
- Reviewed and approved funding (up to \$300) for Mary Riedl, Children & Youth Leader, to attend (online) the ELCA Youth Network Extravaganza, February 10-14, 2022.
- Agreed to request the HR Committee to revise the Children & Youth Leader position description to include annual continuing education funding, beginning in 2022.
- Approved sending an open letter of support to our healthcare providers (Your Hands Care for Us) from the Treasure Valley Cluster of churches (ELCA) to both local newspapers, healthcare providers in the congregation, and others as requested. This letter will be signed by Pastor Paul Olsen and the Immanuel Congregation Council.
- Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.
- The next regular Church Council meeting is Monday, October 18, 2021 (5:30 PM), Zoom online meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Les Gieselman, Secretary