

First Lutheran Church – Blair, Nebraska
Church Council Meeting – Fellowship Hall – 7:00 P.M. September 9, 2021

Members in Attendance: John Mark Nielsen, Judy Thompson, Chad Leggott, Rhonda Matney, James Peterson, Carson Hernandez

Staff Present: Pastor Scott Frederickson, Erika Cada, Vince Krysl

Guest: Randy Jensen

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:57 P.M. by John Mark Nielsen.
- II. Council member devotions: In Denise's absence, John Mark recited Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who has promised is faithful." This was John Mark's confirmation verse in 1964 and sustained him at the time his son, Kaj, was diagnosed and treated for brain cancer.
- III. Minutes of the August 12, 2021 Council Meeting: Jim Peterson moved to approve the minutes as written; Judy Thompson seconded; minutes approved unanimously.
- IV. Council Vacancy: As Joe Bush has submitted his resignation, we need to appointment someone to fulfil his term which ends at the January 2022 Annual Meeting. Pastor Scott asked Randy Jensen who has served on Council before so would be familiar with the meetings, financials and committees for the few remaining months, rather than appointment someone brand new. Jim Peterson made a motion to close nominations and elect Randy Jensen to Council; Judy Thompson seconded; motion carried unanimously. Council thanked Randy for his willingness to serve.
- V. Selection of Vice President: As Joe Bush was Vice President of Council, a new Vice President needs to be elected. The Vice President is also a member of the Vision Committee. Judy Thompson made a motion to close nominations and elect Jim Peterson as Vice President; Carson Hernandez seconded; motion carried unanimously. Council thanked Jim for agreeing to serve.
- VI. Personnel Committee: Joe Bush also served on the Personnel Committee. John Mark has been working with John Wick in reviewing names for potential replacement. An invitation has been extended to three individuals; two declined at this time, two others are considering and Jeff Smith agreed to serve. John Mark will continue to visit with others and is willing to serve as liaison at this time as we would like to conduct annual reviews in November as originally planned.
- VII. Nominating Committee: Ryan Schroeter, Jean Hundtoft, and Loren Havekost are our Nominating Committee. Tracy Gross has served in the past. Pastor Scott will talk to Tracy about serving again.
- VIII. Covid-19 Update: Erika Cada apprised Council of the correspondence from Blair Community Schools Superintendent Randy Gilson. He is begging students, teachers, and staff to wear masks. The schools are now closed to visitors. The

school system is trying to do everything possible before a mandate is necessary. Fort Calhoun School System did enact a mandate beginning August 13th. After discussion, the Council decided to continue current protocols in place and will continue to follow the lead of the Blair School System. Erika will keep John Mark informed who will apprise Council should further discussion be needed prior to next Council meeting.

- IX. Financials: Chad Leggott, Treasurer, reports when looking at the balance sheet cash seems to be down month over month about \$10,000-\$15,000. He is assuming this is due to the light month in the general fund of revenue coming in. Since PPP funds were used and forgiven, they have disappeared from the balance sheet entirely. Christian Growth fund remains good. The mortgage loan is down to \$430,000 and remains in good shape. When reviewing revenue and expenses for August, in the General Fund, revenue was \$28,500 as opposed to last month of \$34,000 which is down a bit which when reviewing net, we are in the red \$13,500 this month. Therefore, revenue coming in wasn't enough to sustain expenses. However, thanks to the PPP funds, we are still ahead of budget but the surplus is getting to be less and less. Chad believes we will be fine for the remainder of the year but does plan to review accounts in the next few weeks and begin the budgeting process. Expenses have basically remained the same each month but the revenue has been decreasing. The August restricted accounts brought in revenue of \$21,000 and we expensed \$14,000 which is why the checking account increased some. Pastor Scott shared so far this month, we have already received \$19,000. Part of it has to do with August being in the middle of the third quarter and some members giving quarterly. Rhonda Matney made a motion to accept the monthly financials; Jim Peterson seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.
- X. Line of Credit: This is the month we have to approve the \$50,000 line of credit (LOC) documents. We have not accessed the LOC the past 2-3 years but it is always good to have the LOC should an emergency occur. Judy Thompson made a motion to approve the line of credit; Jim Peterson seconded; the motion carried unanimously. Chad will prepare documents and obtain signatures.
- XI. Approval of Senior Pastor Job Description: The Senior Pastor Job Description was shared with all Council members. The Council approved the Job Description in June. John Wick, Joe Bush, and John Mark then met with Pastor Scott to review with him. There is a slight revision in relation to duties under Stewardship which are already listed under Administration so that was removed. Chad Leggott made a motion to approve the FLC Senior Pastor Job Description; Carson Hernandez seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- XII. Strategic Vision Task Force and Process: The Vision Committee recommends the congregation develop a strategic vision for FLC's future. Pastor Scott envisions five members of the congregation to come together as a task force to review the following:

- Our current situation and resources coming out of the pandemic
- Traditions
- Changes post-pandemic
- Flourishing current ministries
- Fresh opportunities

After listening to Luke 10:1-12, the Council and staff shared words, texts and/or meanings that stood out to them individually. This allows us to see and hear something you may have missed and opens our minds to other considerations. We will use this text with the task force to begin conversations. Pastor Scott requests the Council think of potential members for the task force. The Nomination Committee will actually do the contacting of members.

- XIII. Reports from Staff: This past Wednesday there were approximately 70 students in Pre-K through Fifth grade with about half of them wearing masks. The Youth Group begins this Sunday for High Schoolers who have not met since before Covid. They will play games and have nachos. Those traveling for the youth gathering in Minneapolis will begin monthly meetings in December. Vince reports the concrete work will begin soon as the church continues to have some water in the basement. Downspouts have been moved and/or adjusted and Property Committee members will be trying to locate where the water is coming into the basement restrooms on the southwest corner adjacent to the Prayer Garden. Rick Ruhge is also working on replacing prayer garden lights with solar lighting as well as working on timers. During the recent storm, one of the tents had a mechanical failure at a connection joint. The connection piece is guaranteed by the manufacturer and they will be sending either replacement parts or refund our money. Pastor Scott reports we have had a couple of funerals, some baptisms and memorial services are planned in September for a couple of members who passed away last year. Catering of funerals has gone well with just a few minor tweaks needed.
- XIV. Committee Reports: Pastor Scott shared at this time the mortgage will be paid off August 2025. The Stewardship Committee has been reviewing giving patterns and with members taking advantage of tax laws, the majority of giving is being realized at the end and/or beginning of the calendar year. With this in mind, the Stewardship Committee would like to have a small, brief campaign in the fall to speed up the payoff of the mortgage by the end of 2022. Social Concerns Committee continues to deliver farm to family food. They are also planning to participate in the 52nd anniversary of the CROP walk; members of FLC have participated since 1971.
- XV. Adjournment. Judy Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Chad Leggott second. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. The next Church Council meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 P.M. on October 14, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Matney, Secretary