

Church Council Meeting Minutes
August 14th, 2023

Present-Pastor PJ, Jed Burkey, Lucas Kosters, Scott McDonald, Greg Tvrlik, Stephanie Heseltine, Bruce Belseth, Del Mari Runck, & Michelle Flaten

Opening Devotion / Prayer – Pastor PJ

Communication Check In

There was positive feedback from the Special Congregational Meeting held on July 30th, 2023. Many members commented about how well organized and planned the meeting was as well as the detailed information provided prior to the vote.

Board Reports

Secretary's Reports:

- **July 2nd Special Council Meeting**
 - Approval via July 11th email - Motion to approve the minutes from the July 2nd, 2023 Special Council Meeting to Call Pastor Megan Preston - Lucas (M), Stephanie (2nd); Motion Carried
- **July 10th Council Meeting**
 - Motion to approve the July Secretary's Report-Bruce (M); Scott (2nd); Motion Carried
- **July 30th Special Congregational Meeting**
 - Motion to approve the minutes from the Special Congregational Meeting to Call Pastor Megan Preston-Scott (M), Stephanie (2nd); Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report

Greg T provided an update on finances:

YTD Income – \$757,759
YTD Expense - \$780,070
YTD Net Income - (\$-22,311)

YTD Budgeted Expenses – \$871,075
YTD Actual Expenses - \$780,070
Expenses Under Budget - \$91,055

To ensure there is enough to cover payroll and bills it was suggested to draw on the cash reserve if needed. This was done in 2022 also. **Motion to approve the financial report-Lucas (M); Michelle (2nd); Motion Carried**

- **Motion to allow for the transfer of \$25,000 from cash reserve through September 30th to draw on only if needed-Scott (M); Jed (2nd); Motion Carried**

Greg provided an update on the partnership between Community Preschool and First Lutheran Church. Through assessment of the Community Preschool and First Lutheran Church operations along with consultation of an employment attorney, it has been recommended that Community Preschool operations are not stand alone from First

Lutheran Church operations. The merger of operations will begin on September 1, 2023 with budget alignment happening the new budget year of January 1, 2024.

Step one in the merger of operations is that First Lutheran Church will begin to pay Community Preschool employees on September 1, 2023, tuition from preschool will pay these wages and it will not affect First Lutheran church budget or dollars given to First Lutheran Church. Community Preschool employees will then fall under the employment policies/practices of First Lutheran Church which includes wage alignment and benefit availability. Step two of the process will be properly aligning the merger of the Community Preschool budget into the First Lutheran Church budget which will happen with First Lutheran's budgeting process this fall and be voted on at the 2024 Annual meeting of First Lutheran Church.

Board Reports - (Worship, Learning, Serving, Communications, Finance & Facilities)

Worship

Have not met since the last council meeting. They are planning to set up a meeting next week.

Learning

Staff are putting in extra hours to meet the needs of programming and upcoming events. Fall programming already has 203 youth signed up which is on track at this time to reach a similar enrollment to last year of 369. New Adult Small Groups are being formed and new events will be coming soon for the remainder of this year and next. More information to come!

Serving

The serving board met on Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023. They approved funding to support meals for Special Olympics participants using benevolence funds. Adopt a Highway clean-up was completed in June with FLY on the Go and volunteers as an intergenerational activity. It was clarified that First Lutheran does have the two-mile stretch from Woodland Elementary to Highway 29. The board discussed how we can help support new members and asked for feedback from Twylla. Twylla reached out to new members who have joined since September 2022 with these questions:

1. Are you still being met with open arms?
2. Do you still get that warm, friendly feeling when you enter the building?
3. Have you found your niche' in serving and/or hospitality?
4. Do you have any questions you are afraid to ask?
5. Do you have any questions for me?

Some responses Twylla shared with our board were yes, yes, and yes to the first three questions. New members felt comfortable asking questions either to her directly or other staff. Our board appreciates Twylla reaching out to new members and sharing their responses! We will be getting an update on Care for Creation and the next steps for that committee. Our board will be reviewing our mission statement, structure and committees within our board.

Communications

Molly Comer joined the Council meeting to talk about the Church Center app and its roll out. She walked us through how to download it to our phones or use it on a website browser. The Church Center app will focus on four areas: People, Calendar,

Registration and Giving which will help consolidate other platforms currently being used. Communication Board members will be at a table with Molly before and after worship in mid-September to help members get the app set up. The Church Center app will be rolled out September 17th, 24th & 27th. There will also be help getting members to switch to Stripe (automatic giving) during Stewardship in October. There will still be communication (mailers, phone calls, etc.) for members who do not use online sign up platforms or email. The refocused Focus will begin in late August. Molly will include information in the e-news about these upcoming changes.

Finance & Facilities

No meeting has been held since the last council meeting.

2023 NW MN Synod Assembly

There has been no follow up report received from the Synod from the 2023 NW MN Synod's Assembly Meeting held June 3 to share with the congregation. Del Mari will reach out to Synod for this information.

Communications addressed to Council

None

Call Committee Update

Pastor Megan Preston has a start date of September 5th, 2023. There is no installation date as of yet. Sunday, September 10th, 2023 will be her first Sunday at FLC. There currently are no other applications at this time for the other posted Intergenerational Pastor position.

Other Pastoral Support

There will be continued pastoral support this fall from Pastor Judy, Pastor Dennis and Jessica Paulson. The council is grateful for the summer staff and volunteers who shared their time, talents and helped support Pastor PJ and all FLC staff.

- **Motion to provide a small token of appreciation and a public thank at the September 3rd service to the summer staff-Bruce (M); Scott (2nd); Motion Carried**

A potential Interim Pastor was recommended by the Synod and interviewed via Zoom on July 25 by Pastor PJ, Greg T, Del Mari and Bruce. (Pastor PJ had met with the candidate in a one:one meeting at the Church previous to this interview.) After discussion and discernment, the group unanimously agreed that the candidate was not the right fit for FLC.

Reminders:

Council Meeting – Monday, September 11 @ 7:00 PM. Vice-Chair Bruce will preside at the meeting in Del Mari's absence.

Recorded By:

Michelle Flaten

Council Secretary