



# Faith Lutheran Church Council 2024 Meeting Minutes

## Tuesday, April 23, 2024; 5:00PM in Person/Zoom

Attendees: Council: Pastor Eric Olsen, Scott Rice-President, Lauren Wardach-Vice President, Mark Nelson-Secretary, Anita Wooton-Treasurer(zoom), Jane Sanks-Asst. Treasurer, Joan Searles, Peggy Ragan, Ann Greenwood(zoom), Jerry Cooper, Quyen Dang.

**Mission – "Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others."**

**Values – Mutual Respect, Honesty, Kindness, Service, Forgiveness, Commitment  
Perseverance, Faithfulness, Compassion, Flexibility**

Scott Rice, Council President, called the meeting to order at 5:02PM.

Pastor Eric opened with prayer.

A Quorum of Council Members was established.

Minutes of the March 26, 2024, council meeting are approved and posted to the Friday Update.

### **Consent Agenda**

- Endowment Committee – none submitted
- Evangelism & Outreach Committee – none submitted
- Hospitality Committee – none submitted
- Property Committee –Received and distributed
- Stewardship Committee –Received and distributed
- Worship & Music Committee – none submitted

**ACTION: A motion was made by Anita Wooten and seconded by Lauren Wardach to accept the consent agenda items which required no further discussion or action; motion passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda**

#### **Standing Monthly Reports**

- Finance Committee Report – report received and distributed.
  - Anita Wooton highlighted some information from the report: March revenues were up with electronic giving returning to normal trend. Overall giving was higher than any other month last year except December. Operating expenses appear to be within budget. Both the operating revenue and the net revenue were positive.
  - The audit review has been moved from 5/1/24 to 5/15/24
  - A donation was made to Faith in the form of a Stock which allowed the donor to record the donation at current market value and get a good tax deduction. Anita wants to encourage others to donate in this manner
  - A Mutual Bond Fund was liquidated due to poor performance and the monies will be placed in a CD
  - A decision was made by the Finance Committee to make a change to Faith's Constitution. This will allow the church to delete the limitation on the Treasurer only serving two years. There does not need to have this approved by the Synod, but will be voted on by the Congregation at next year's Annual Meeting. Mark Nelson made a motion to approve, was seconded by Joan Searles and approved.

## **Pastor's Report**

- Pastor advised Confirmation Candidates will be visiting the meeting today at 6:00pm. They will give a speech to affirm themselves to the church and Council. He mentioned they have really come together well as a group. He mentioned they will be Confirmed on Pentecost Sunday which is May 19<sup>th</sup>. They will receive ELW books with their name on it along with some cake.
- Pastor is excited about the new visitors we have been getting and it's getting time for a New Member class which will be June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- At the May Council meeting, a discussion will be had with Dr. Rev John Walker to talk about the Faith Based Mentoring program for individuals reentering society after a period incarceration.
- Pastor mentioned unfortunately Faith has had a lot of illness and deaths amongst it's members.
- The Comedy Ministry went on the road to the Villages and had about 768 people show up with standing ovations. A new grant will be applied for to hopefully have a new class and possibly create a studio upstairs with use available to other ministries. Fees paid by attendees will help supplement the costs
- The ELCA Director of Justice Khader El-Yateem was here to discuss Palestine/Isreal relation and pray for Lutheran Federation Hospital Pastor feels more discussion needs to take place on ways to help. Scott also talked about how difficult the topic was. Pastor mentioned all should work on critical thinking about the issue before taking action
- Sarasota Fire position continues to evolve and will be responding more to critical incidents and will be meeting with other Fire Chiefs
- The Bishop Office approached Pastor about needing help with Red Cross and their response unit. He will help recruit other Pastors to be a part of response team.
- The Safety Committee met headed up by Steve Ragan. Pastor thanked him and said they will give their reports to the Property Committee to pass along
- Landscaping project is moving along and air fresheners have been placed around for an odd smell which the cause is being investigated.

## **Old Business**

- Mark volunteered to attend Florida Synod Convention in May as a voting member. He will ask his wife Amy to join him as the other voting member, but her work schedule may not allow time off. If she is unable to attend, another volunteer will be searched for.

## **New Business**

- Confirmation Candidates, Christian Jones, Alma Dornemann and Jasmine Gamboa presented their faith statements. They all did a wonderful job in their commitment to Faith, their own faith and future goals. Many Council members remarked on their statements and provided positive feedback. Council felt the future looked good with these young people.
- A motion was made by Joan and seconded by all Council members to accept them and do their Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33PM by Scott Rice, President.  
We closed with recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mark Nelson, Council Secretary