

First Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Adopted November 21, 2023

Date: October 17, 2023

Location: First Lutheran Church | Library and via Zoom

Council Members Present in Person:

Ho Brown (President) *(Personnel Committee Liaison)*

Tor Berg (Pastor)

Jess Faubion *(Building & Property Committee Liaison)*

Christy Freriks *(Fellowship Committee Liaison)*

Jean Peterson (Secretary) *(Worship and Music Committee Liaison)*

Kristi Pyne *(Preschool Committee Liaison)*

Jacky Schnarre *(IT/Communications Committee Liaison)*

Council Members Present via Zoom:

Stephanie Almeida (Vice President) *(Membership Committee Liaison)*

David Berg *(Christian Education Committee Liaison)*

Emily Curcio *(Finance Committee Liaison)*

Council Members Absent:

Gary Curtis *(Stewardship Committee Liaison)*

Kathy Konieczka *(Social Ministries Liaison)*

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

Devotion: Pastor Berg

Discussion (Chapter 2) on our shared reading assignment, When Church Stops Working by Andrew Root and Blair D. Bertrand. This chapter focuses on the theme often adopted by megachurches: "More is better." These churches often use Acts 2 as their banner, because Acts 2 resonates more with the secular world. But Acts begins with Chapter 1, which is about what *God* is directing. Resonance is found in prayer, worship and being in community. Maybe we need to be ok with waiting, as Jesus commanded his disciples to do when they met in Jerusalem. Pastor Berg will continue the discussion on Chapter 3 at our next meeting.

Approval of 10/17/23 Meeting Agenda:

Motion to Approve: Jacky Schnarre.

Second: Christy Freriks.

Motion approved.

Approval 9/19/23 Council Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Jess Faubion

Second: Stephanie Almeida

Abstention: Jacky Schnarre

Motion approved.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Berg

See attached Pastor's Report. Pastor Berg shared highlights—the enjoyment of Breaking Bread with the Bergs and its fellowship. The Nominating Committee is now active. Pastor Berg is particularly pleased to be teaching again after other activities between services preempted teaching. A series on The Reformation is in progress.

Christy noted that while the covid team is not active at this time, it may still be prudent to make an announcement to remind people that free covid tests are again available along with vaccinations to help keep our community safe.

Committee Reports:

- Jean Peterson noted that several committees have submitted their minutes which were sent to the Council for review prior to our meeting. Jean asked that the naming convention be somewhat standardized to “Committee Name_ Minutes_Date” to create uniformity. No Council action items were noted in the minutes reviewed.
- *Finance* - Emily Curcio requested that budget requests from Worship and Music, Building and Property and the Council be submitted as soon as possible.
- *Worship and Music* - Pastor Berg reported that Worship and Music had reached consensus to have two services on Christmas Eve, at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. There will be no service on Christmas Day. This schedule will be confirmed at our November 21 Council meeting. Publicity of the schedule, since it is different than in past years, will be important. Alternate available late candlelight services in the community may be suggested for members who prefer a late evening Christmas Eve service.

Old Business:

Confirmation of Portico Health Care Vote on 9/27/23

- The Finance Committee put before the Council a request to approve the continuation of health care coverage per the attached information. The Council voted unanimously via email on 9/27/23 to approve. The council affirmed this electronic vote unanimously at the Council meeting.

Mediation Update – Ho Brown

- Pastor Berg and Ho Brown have each received the draft report from Pastor Vance and have provided feedback. Pastor Vance is working on the finalized report. A separate meeting (see below) will be scheduled for Council to review the report and consider next steps.

Coffee with Council

- Dave Berg and Jean Peterson hosted Coffee with Council on 10/1. It was attended by 7-8 people (coming and going); people asked about the mediation and were advised that information would be shared when available. Jean advised that Ann Aagard had hoped there would be a similar meeting last Sunday and shared her concerns about finding more singers for choir in an informal conversation. Jess Faubion and Kristi Pyne will host the next Coffee with Council on November 5.

Publicity:

- Homepage scroll & narthex monitor – Christy to contact Kris
- Instagram – Emily
- Calendar & Sunday bulletins – Pastor Berg to contact Kris
- Sunday announcement – Pastor Berg will make the announcement(s)

Approval of Continuing Resolutions

- Outreach Grant for UW Ministry Continuing Resolution
Pastor Berg provided background information for use of a grant to support this ministry. There is no time limit on this; the CR speaks to the intent and will provide the basis for moving forward.
Motion to Approve: Christy Freriks
Second: Jacky Schnarre
Motion approved.
- 2024 Sabbatical Planning Team
Pastor Berg provided background on the intent of the team.
Motion to Approve: Jess Faubion
Second: Emily Curio
Motion approved.

New Business

- Council Vacancy
Johannes Skjonsby submitted his resignation August 14. Ho Brown provided data showing previous situations and the time frame in which the positions were filled. Johannes' term was set to expire in January 2024.
This language was read into the Council record:

This council states that we are aware that we are operating outside of Constitutional Mandates due to the resignation of one member. The quorum for our meetings will remain the same as it would be with all twelve members.

Motion to approve this statement: Jess Faubion

Second: Christy Freriks

Motion approved.

- Council Budget Request for 2024

Pastor Berg recommended increasing the request from \$500 requested for 2023 to \$1,000 for 2024. Having the ability to have resources such as the book we are reading currently or a guest speaker would be beneficial.

Motion to request \$1,000 for the 2024 Council budget: Kristi Pyne.

Second: Jacky Schnarre.

Motion approved.

- Convening of Nominating Committee

Pastor Berg confirmed that the Nominating Committee of Holly Batstone, Tom Payne, Carsten Thode, Lloyd Condra, Randall Wampler and Karen Thomas has met and will continue to meet to identify candidates for Council positions.

- Reserve Fund

Ho Brown noted that the Council will be asked to approve a recommendation from the Finance Committee for disposition of these funds. Ho will forward background information to the Council for study on this process.

Council Corner

Our contribution will be to remind people to return their pledges, time and talent surveys and worship surveys. As a side note, Pastor Berg noted that 80 worship surveys have been returned thus far, and that the surveys can be forwarded to anyone so more individuals can participate. Worship and Music will review responses at their meeting on 11/6 and share results at the next Council meeting.

Spotlight on Volunteers

REMINDERS:

November – due to Kris by 10/15 (Finance Committee)

December – due to Kris by 11/15 (IT/Communications)

January – due to Kris by 12/15 (Membership)

Next Meetings:

A special meeting for Council members to review Pastor Vance's report, recommendations, and determine next steps. Sunday, November 5, 6:30 p.m. in person in the Library (Zoom available as needed).

The next regular Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 21 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. in person at First Lutheran Church.

Last comments: Emily Curcio noted that Lloyd Condra is seeking someone to take over his Confirmation class responsibilities. Emily's 16-year old daughter Isabella has volunteered to fill in for some classes. Pastor Berg offered to participate in support of Isabella and/or possibly independently teaching some classes. Pastor Berg will discuss a plan with Roger Steinke.

Meeting adjourned: 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Peterson
Secretary