

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Through Zoom, on Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021 at 7:06 pm**

Vision Statement: *Peace Lutheran Church is a welcoming, worshipping and witnessing community in Jesus Christ through whom healing, wellness, love and peace are offered unconditionally to all.*

Mission Statement: *Celebrating and Sharing God's Love for All.*

ATTENDANCE: Dawn Soulis (chair), Janet VanderWees (vice chair), Rosemarie Lantzsch (secretary), Giselle Bischof, Ina Toso, Tapio Haapalehto, Pastor Ronnie, Jeremy West and Gloria Zorn.
Guest: Sunny Wishart

Call to Order: D. Soulis called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Opening: J. VanderWees read a poem as an opening devotion and prayer. D. Soulis will do it in April and G. Zorn will do it in May.

It was moved by R. Lantzsch, seconded by G. Bischof: **THAT the agenda for Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021 be approved. CARRIED.**

It was moved by T. Haapalehto, seconded by J. VanderWees: **THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on February 16th, 2021 be approved. CARRIED.**

The financial statements were previously sent out by email. It was moved by G. Zorn, seconded by G. Bischof: **THAT the February financial statements be accepted. Discussion:** Sunny applied for CEWS for the 13th period of January to February 2021 in the amount of \$1,857. One GIC was redeemed and deposited into the CIBC bank account on February 26th in the amount of \$10,323.69 and the other GIC was renewed for one year on February 26th in the amount of \$10,323.69 @ 0.45%. All reports are now on a proper accrual basis. On the Reconciliation of Bank Balance to Book Balance, two lines were added on the bank balance side: Accounts Payable and CIBC Visa, which now balances with the book balance. Sunny recommends that we move CEWS income (wage subsidy) over to Special Funds. Sunny confirmed it is not taxable income and there is no restriction on spending. There is no impact on the financial statement if it gets moved. J. West is in favor of moving it. He feels we should be cautious about spending CEWS money -- it is best to put it aside. It was moved by T. Haapalehto, seconded by J. VanderWees: **THAT the recommendation made by Sunny Wishart to move the CEWS income to the Special Purpose Funds be approved. CARRIED.** With regards to the location of the accounting fees, T. Haapalehto has reconsidered the comment he made last month – it is fine where it is. Sunny briefly commented on the Finance Team Summary Report Q1 prepared by Wayne Ruhnke. She stated that Copetti needs some information from Council in order to file with CRA. **To Do:** D. Soulis to get in touch with Sunny and give information to her. **Additional comments:** Why is the amount so high in the Worship & Arts – Technology? Because of the Video streaming. Kateryna worked less hours, only 10 hours a week instead of 12 hours a week. There being no further discussion, the Motion to accept the February financial statements was **CARRIED.**

Other – Offerings: Shirley Fingler is not yet ready to receive offerings for PLC. Some congregants wanted to know the status. There was concern expressed if it should continue and if Shirley would want it to continue. We need to inform the congregation that PLC's mail box is safe and secure with the new lock installed last year for those members who wish to drop off their offerings at church. If members are still uncomfortable about leaving offerings in the mailbox, they can call ahead to arrange a drop off time with Kateryna on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or call J. West. He offered his services to retrieve mail from

the mail box. **To Do:** D. Soulis to ask Shirley about her decision and do an article for the April PLC newsletter including that our mailbox is safe and secure.

New Business:

Pastoral Pension Plan: Sunny spoke with Bill about the Pastor Pension Plan and gave her thoughts to Council. Holy Cross Burlington is asking other churches to study and report back with a Resolution to go to Synod. It was also sent to Fiona/Mutual Ministry. Our current pension plan is with Root Services Inc. Sunny stated we are in a low market rate environment already, but everything is looking up. Some hybrid plans are too small and may go bankrupt. Sunny stated we needed to get more information if the plan is underfunded and that we need further information in general. It was proposed just to support the Motion to do the Study for Mutual Ministry to review and then to be presented to Council for review.

Sunny then left our Zoom meeting.

Annual Convention – Eastern Synod Assembly (June 25-26th): D. Soulis confirmed that we need one Delegate and the Pastor to attend the Annual Convention. The delegate can be anyone from Council or the congregation. The deadline to register is March 30th. There were some suggestions/recommendations made. G. Bischof stated in previous years, we would elect delegates at our AGM. D. Soulis responded that unfortunately details were not received in time. She asked Council to think about it in prayer and will send an email to Council once a selection has been made. * **Note: see motion made by email by Council on March 28th at end of Minutes.**

Installation of Council: D. Soulis stated that this will be recorded at our next Council meeting (approximately 5-10 minutes long), which will be included in PLC's worship service on April 20th.

Website Update: I. Toso looked at all the associated costs: license for domain, platform fees, security certificate, Word Press and lots of tacked on charges. When asked, I. Toso stated that we can pay for this year as the PLC budget was increased to include this cost. I. Toso paid with her credit card. In future, this cost should be paid through the Church CIBC Visa account.

Posting Council Minutes: D. Soulis asked if we are all in agreement with posting Council Minutes, abbreviated or in whole, on the PLC's website. Some comments included only posting the main motions, that it doesn't include confidential matters and that the Minutes need to be approved first by Council. Pastor Ronnie also stated that there are no secrets and there should be full transparency for those who wish to read same. After some discussion, we agreed to post the entire Council Minutes after approval by Council. T. Haapalehto stated the Minutes will be posted a month later once approved. We agreed. No formal Motion was made.

Veggie Garden: Janet and Helen and team are planning to expand the veggie garden this year. Are we in agreement? After some discussion – yes. There is lots of room to expand. Janet's husband will build planters/raised beds and it will be enough for the Community. Need to consider distribution to those who need in the Community. Need to consider keeping garden away from parking lot area and drain spots – don't know where the issue is and the possibility that we may need to dig. J. West stated that the garden should be staggered – upslope and to avoid hydro/gas/water lines. He knows the location of same and will let them know.

Old Business:

Constitutional Changes and Process: Hold off for now.

Prayers for the People: Confidential

Correspondence: No

Reports:

Property: The Property Report was previously distributed to Council. T. Haapalehto reported that he received an email request from Kateryna that Bayshore Mews is undertaking a major garage restoration beginning April 4th and lasting up to 24 weeks. They will need a maximum of 33 parking spaces during this time. T. Haapalehto responded to them on March 16th, that we can only offer 15 spaces in our lower parking lot without compromising our current parking agreements with other tenants at a rate of \$60 per month per vehicle. This means \$900/month extra income for the next six months. T. Haapalehto sent to Council the Fernie Works lawn agreement for our review and approval for 12 bi-weekly grass cutting services this year at the unchanged cost of \$1,525 including HST. T. Haapalehto recommends that we prepay this service to receive their 5% discount for a total cost of \$1,449.23 including HST. T. Haapalehto looked at other services and concluded we are getting a good deal. D. Soulis asked what was included in the 2021 Budget for lawn care -- \$1,800. It was moved by R. Lantzsch, seconded by G. Bischof: **THAT the Customer Agreement Form for Lawn Services between Peace Lutheran Church and Fernie Works be approved for the Bi-Weekly service season of 2021 for a total cost of \$1,449.23 including HST.** J. West recommended that the bill be sent to Sunny to prepay. **CARRIED.**

T. Haapalehto stated that J. West continues to make periodic building inspections and expressed his thanks to Jeremy for all he does. T. Haapalehto checked out Roto Rooter and wasn't impressed with their quote. He contacted Butler Drain and they will be onsite with their camera later this week to diagnose the source of the sewer gas smell in the basement exit west vestibule and the cause of the blockage of pit drain in the Janitorial/Boiler room. Butler charges \$150 plus HST for camera service but will not bill us for the camera service if we engage them to perform the drain repairs. T. Haapalehto still to check another service before presenting conclusion to Council. **** Note: see motion made by email on March 29th by Council at end of Minutes.**

T. Haapalehto received five estimates for the installation of new wheelchair accessible main front doors. They range from \$6,560 to \$11,360 plus HST. They will be selecting three of these companies to perform measurement/consultation site visits, after which they will receive formal quotations from them. He will iron out the details before presenting same to Council.

All four wall mounted hand sanitizer stations are defective and not repairable. Both T. Haapalehto and Gord tried to fix but the valve at the bottom drips on all. The sanitizer product supplied by Tasco is pretty smelly and it is a challenge to find unscented product. Purell and GOJO hand sanitizer is expensive as well as foam/gel products. Recommendation: Alternative 1: buy 4 Purell wall mounted units along with non-fragrant gel sanitizer tanks. Purell sanitizer dispenser unit cost about \$35 plus HST and 1.2 refill tank cost about \$40 each plus HST. Alternative 2: buy Costco Live Clean 1 litre pump bottles costing \$12 plus HST. D. Soulis thanked T. Haapalehto and J. West for all they do for Peace.

Health Cabinet: Health Cabinet held a meeting on February 23, 2021. They are doing a Healing Service on April 25th. Pastor Ronnie confirmed there will be no laying on of hands. There is a special surprise coming too – music/healing themed.

Mutual Ministry: D. Soulis confirmed the next Visioning session with Mutual Ministry and Council will be held on April 6th.

Olive Branch: R. Lantzsch confirmed that the Olive Branch mail-out was done and sent to all members and friends. Many have expressed their appreciation. She thanked the Olive Branch team for all their efforts and support.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ronnie reported the statistics of online worship services through YouTube since a year ago, recording 10.3 thousand views. There were 1,118 views during Holden and more during Christmas with over 379 participating in the Christmas Eve service. There were 285 views for each

David Maginley Lent series. Each view represents one device, with one or more participating. Pastor Ronnie roughly estimates that each view represents 1.5 individuals (including couples, singles or families). Pastor Ronnie has been busy working on Podcasts with Dave Wishart. He is almost there with eight episodes “ready to go” soon. Pastor Ronnie needs to edit a bit more since he has recorded many hours. They meet every week and they both have put in a lot of effort to build it up this past year. Pastor Ronnie feels the church is definitely growing with different things available and ministry has changed a lot this past year. He is excited about where Peace is headed, especially in outreach and spreading gospel. Pastor Ronnie feels incredibly supported by Council and Peace – he is grateful and feels blessed. T. Haapalehto stated that he also appreciates seeing Pastor Hilla back in our mainstream.

J. VanderWees did the Closing Prayer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 at 7 pm

ADDITIONAL APPROVED MOTIONS TO INCLUDE:

*On March 28th, by electronic email, it was moved by T. Haapalehto, seconded by R. Lantzsch: **THAT Council approves the selection of Joel and Lena Sievers as our delegates representing Peace Lutheran Church to attend the Annual Convention (Eastern Synod Assembly - June 25-26th). CARRIED.**

On March 29th, by electronic email, it was moved by T. Haapalehto, seconded by J. VanderWees: **THAT Council approves engaging Butler Drain to take care of our drainage problems including a power flush and reconnection of the disconnected drain. CARRIED.