

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Through Zoom, on Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 at 7:05 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 7:05 pm.

Opening: G. Zorn did the opening devotion “The Black Dot” and prayer. G. Bischof will do it in June.

It was moved by T. Haapalehto, seconded by G. Zorn: **THAT the agenda for Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 be approved.** T. Haapalehto asked that “Reopening – Fall 2021” be added to New Business. D. Soulis stated that it was done. There were no further changes to the Agenda. **CARRIED.**

It was moved by G. Bischof, seconded by J. VanderWees: **THAT the Amended Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on April 20th, 2021 be approved.** **Discussion:** There was one small change made suggested by Tapio, and correction made to the Olive Branch update. **CARRIED.**

The Treasurer’s Report and financial statements were previously sent out by email. **Discussion:** D. Soulis signed the CRA form T3010 and sent it to CRA. Sunny told us they have an old CRA signing authority list which needs to be updated to remove the 10 old names and include granting Copetti with online CRA access. D. Soulis is on the list and will sign a form to authorize Copetti as our representative. **To Do: D. Soulis, Sunny and the Finance Team will work on updating the CRA signing authority list.** Sunny told us that Helen Ehlers is working with the Finance Team. The financials spreadsheet has a new tab labeled Balance Sheet to replace the Reconciliation of Funds tab. The new reporting format aligns with Quickbooks, and the resulting Excel spreadsheets would lessen errors, reduce bookkeeper costs and it has other benefits. Sunny told us the CIBC bank called her that our GIC is up for renewal on June 8th in the amount of \$18,018 for either a 1 year term at .45% or a 2 year term at .55%, and so on. After some discussion, Council decided to renew the GIC for one year as the rates may go up by then. It was moved by J. VanderWees, seconded by I. Toso: **THAT Council approves reinvesting the June 8th, 2021 GIC for one year at the rate of .45%. CARRIED.**

Sunny explained that the new Balance Sheet contains old numbers found by Copetti in our accounting books listing our building, amortization and land amounts for an approximate amount of \$144,000. There is an \$894 difference between the bank statement and the book balance due to an old entry error. The accounting books look good otherwise. The Finance Team suggested leaving the old entry error in the amount of \$894 for now and adjusting the entry in the books at the end of the year as it is mainly used for Income Tax purposes. After some discussion, all of us stated that the old building and land value is irrelevant, outdated, confusing, a moot point, not important and should not be included in the monthly Balance Sheet. Pastor Ronnie is grateful for all the hard work and efforts by Sunny and the Finance Team and believes we are making positive strides. **To Do: Sunny and the Finance Team to remove the old building and land values from the Balance Sheet going forward.**

Finance Team Summary Notes – Meeting held April 26th: D. Soulis stated there are a few things to note in Wayne’s report: the Finance Team will share an update with the congregation in the following month’s PLC newsletter. The Treasurer’s Report will be posted on the website. The Finance Team is in the process of creating a Financial Handbook for Peace to improve the church’s financial governance. The Finance Team is compiling resource material between now and September for review and will have a completed document ready for Council’s approval in November 2021. Kudos to the Finance Team!

It was moved by T. Haapalehto, seconded by J. VanderWees: **THAT the April financial statements be accepted. CARRIED.** Sunny then left the Zoom Council meeting at 8:00 pm.

New Business:

Indigenous Land Plaque: Pastor Ronnie explained that Glenn Rittinger was moved by the Indigenous Land Acknowledgements done at the beginning of worship services and wanted to have Council’s permission to have a small sign made (maybe stained glass) for inside the church. Other members suggested having an outdoor plaque made. This is more complicated and expensive and he is not able to organize or do this and wonders if there is anyone in Council that would be willing to take on this project. Pastor Ronnie will spearhead this project. I. Toso stated it’s a “Communications” thing. T. Haapalehto suggested having an electronic sign – better communication. Do we do a smaller sign now and something larger later? What are our immediate priorities? I. Toso stated Communication is the driver, whether electronic, plaque or stained glass. G. Zorn mentioned that stained glass is expensive. I. Toso asked what are our priorities and we need to do it right the first time. D. Soulis stated that we will park it for now. I. Toso mentioned that she lives with a stained glass artist. She will enquire re. cost.

Reopening: D. Soulis stated that this is the first time there is a glimmer of hope about reopening in the fall. J. VanderWees and the Reopening Committee to reevaluate the reopening process with the goal of reopening in the fall. J. VanderWees stated it would be nice to reopen before September but not until the COVID numbers are down. G. Bischof stated we need to listen to authorities what we are allowed to do. T. Haapalehto stated we need to work with Pastor Ronnie to help with live streaming. D. Soulis indicated that there will be questions raised from the congregation as to when the church will reopen. J. West stated that the building is ready. J. VanderWees stated that we do not need to be worried about deep cleaning. T. Haapalehto mentioned that we should put something in the newsletter. **To Do: J. VanderWees to write something for the newsletter once decisions are made.**

Other: J. VanderWees asked Council whether it is necessary to wear face masks outside and social distance while working on the Peace Garden. J. West stated to use Provincial guidelines – only if you can’t social distance, then wear a face mask outside.

Old Business:

Constitutional Changes and Process: T. Haapalehto and Fiona to work on it.

Prayers for the People: Confidential

Correspondence: No.

Reports:

Property: The Property Report was previously distributed to Council. Items discussed:

- T. Haapalehto reported that Butler Drain performed a power flush on April 29th. It was built up residuals that caused the original blockage. A camera inspection confirmed that the sewage lines were not damaged and were cleared. A hidden uncapped sewer clean-out was discovered by the basement exit doors which was power flushed and capped. On May 1st, Butler reconnected the vestibule floor drain – only 4 inches of tiled concrete floor needed to be broken and then sealed with concrete. The

drainage speed of the Janitorial room pit drain did not improve after the power flush. Butler recommended no further action since the cost of the excavation work may exceed their verbal estimate of \$7,600 to replace pipes to the current code standards and digging may reveal other issues.

- T. Haapalehto sent to Council two arborist quotations for pruning or removal of 4-6 trees. There is an immediate need to remove a large branch hanging over the south side of the parking lot – it may break and hit parked vehicles below it. The estimated total cost for this service is between \$2,000 to \$2,500. T. Haapalehto and J. West to refine the 2 quotations received from Tandem Tree Service and Davey Tree Expert, before recommending one of them to Council. * J. VanderWees suggested leaving the stumps – less money and can put plant on the stump.
- J. West removed the dead cherry tree near the old church entrance. Tandem had quoted \$275 plus HST to do this work. Thanks Jeremy.
- The Church and Pastor’s office cordless telephone set was recently replaced due to battery failures.

Health Cabinet: Health Cabinet held a meeting on April 29, 2021. The Minutes were distributed to Council. Pastor Ronnie mentioned that the Minutes are very thorough. Health Cabinet is still trying to find their future vision.

Mutual Ministry: D. Soulis stated that the 3rd Visioning meeting held on May 10th was very good. The main issue discussed was the future of online worship and live stream services once in-person worship services resume. Pastor Ronnie, Cameron and Stacy are on the Live Stream Team. D. Soulis to talk with Fiona about the next step in the visioning process.

Olive Branch: R. Lantzsch attended the TOBFC Annual Fundraising Gala function by Zoom on April 30th. She expressed appreciation to Deborah and TOBFC team for the wonderful songs and an in-depth view of what they do. R. Lantzsch stated we “missed the boat” on communicating the Gala function with our congregation. Pastor Ronnie mentioned that it was widely advertised through FaceBook. R. Lantzsch had positive feedback from some members of Peace that they really appreciated receiving the mail-out of the Olive Branch information, but not specifically about the special Olive Branch segments in our worship services during the Fundraising month. Pastor Ronnie mentioned it was uplifting for many members to receive a letter from the Olive Branch team with pictures of our girls and the artwork. It is another beneficial aspect of the outreach by Peace to TOBFC.

Pastor’s Report: A copy of Pastor’s Report was previously sent to Council. Pastor Ronnie gave a summary of his report which included key statistics of the past 28 days (copy attached). Pastor Ronnie amended his vacation plans. He will be gone from July 19th until August 15th. During his absence, there will be a sermon series available to the congregation. Pulpit supply is not necessary during this time. Pastor Ronnie is pleased to be able to support Arnold in his calling and gladly helps him with his sermons. Arnold now preaches regularly. Pastor Ronnie stated that his primary focus will be on the Synod Assembly on June 25-26th. He has been working with Kirsten and the Music Team to record music for the Assembly (the Music Team still needs someone to sing), Stacy did art for the Assembly and Joel and Lena Sievers are the Peace delegates together with Pastor Ronnie. T. Haapalehto stated that we need to make sure that Kateryna doesn’t take vacation at the same time as Pastor Ronnie.

D. Soulis asked Council for their input whether we should meet in July or in August and take the other month off. Everyone’s preference was that we meet in August and take the month of July off.

G. Zorn did a Closing Devotion “Crack in the Mirror” and a closing prayer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, June 15th, 2021 at 7 pm

Note: Two additional Motions were approved as follows:

***On June 1st, 2021, by electronic email, it was moved by T. Haapalehto, seconded by J. West: THAT Council approves contracting Tandem Tree Service to prune 2 trees and remove 2 trees including grinding down to their stumps for a cost of \$1,950 (plus HST) as per their estimate dated May 25, 2021. CARRIED.**

***On June 2nd, 2021, by electronic email, it was moved by R. Lantzsch, seconded by J. VanderWees: THAT Council approves the Treasurer's Report for Q1 2021 for the period of January to March, 2021 and agrees that it can be sent out by mail and email to the congregation. CARRIED.**