

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Through Zoom, on Tuesday, June 15th, 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: Janet VanderWees (vice chair), Rosemarie Lantzsch (secretary), Giselle Bischof, Ina Toso, Tapio Haapalehto, Pastor Ronnie and Jeremy West. Regrets: Dawn Soulis and Gloria Zorn
Guest: Sunny Wishart

Call to Order: J. VanderWees called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Opening: G. Bischof did the opening devotion "Journey of the Heart" and prayer. J. VanderWees will do it in August.

It was moved by T. Haapalehto, seconded by G. Bischof: **THAT the agenda for Tuesday, June 15th, 2021 be approved. CARRIED.**

It was moved by I. Toso, seconded by J. West: **THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on May 18th, 2021 be approved.** No discussion. **CARRIED.**

The Treasurer's Report and financial statements were previously sent out by email. **Discussion:** In the Treasurer's Report, Sunny told us that the CEWS subsidy monies were received for the periods of March, April and May for a total of \$4,764 and that the GIC in the amount of \$18,018 was renewed on June 8th for a year @ 0.45%. Helen Ehlers conducted a review of our existing financial format. However, because of the peculiarities of QuickBooks, she determined that we are better off using our own template. The Finance Team recommends to Council that we continue with our current reporting format. Helen also verified that the variance from January to May 2021 still exists in our statement of \$894, which can be adjusted at any time during the year. This variance is a result of transitioning to QuickBooks entries. It was recommended by the Finance Team to make this adjustment in the June statement so that our Reconciliation Statement will then be in balance. It was moved by T. Haapalehto, seconded by J. West: **THAT Council agrees that the Financial Team can make the adjustment of the \$894 variance to the June financial statement. CARRIED.** Sunny also told us that with the help of Bill Gregor and Helen, the Bookkeeper made some minor changes to budgetary numbers under Pastor's Remuneration. All lines add up and are correct. Sunny told us to expect a charge of \$6,478 in the June statement under Worship & Arts – Technology for the live streaming equipment. This amount was prepaid on the credit card for warranty reasons and if parts need to be replaced. Pastor Ronnie confirmed that Council approved \$4,500 and the grant of \$2,500 will be submitted after payment. Pastor Ronnie is not discouraged yet that the church income is "in the red". He feels that we are blessed to be "above water" and we do have the CEWS monies if needed. T. Haapalehto indicated some members are on vacation and in September, they will give more. Pastor Ronnie indicated that in the state of the wider Synod, some churches are worse off and have hired someone to oversee. It was moved by I. Toso, seconded by G. Bischof: **THAT the May financial statements be accepted. CARRIED.** Sunny then left the Zoom Council meeting at 7:23 pm.

New Business:

Indigenous Land Plaque: Pastor Ronnie has nothing new to report. He wonders if stained glass is appropriate, it doesn't have an indigenous flavor and wants to make the sign more indigenous. I. Toso didn't ask her friend yet about the cost of having the sign made in stained glass. Pastor Ronnie stated we

can't do reconciliation without showing empathy and awareness. He will need to speak with someone in the indigenous community. I. Toso agreed to help Pastor Ronnie with this project.

Reopening: J. VanderWees stated that the Reopening Committee, J. West and T. Haapalehto, have reevaluated the opening process and confirm that the church is ready to reopen in the fall, depending on the COVID numbers. The goal is to reopen the Sunday after Labor Day with approximately 35 to 38 able to attend, maintaining social distancing and wearing masks. Renters are not to open up yet until church services resume. T. Haapalehto is looking into the basement ventilation system if it is safe for renters. All renters should be fully vaccinated. G. Bischof asked "how would we know". Pastor Ronnie stated there will be no policing. I. Toso asked if we are even allowed to ask for vaccine proof. T. Haapalehto stated that Kateryna has waivers for renters, which is part of their contract. We will allow No Rock On Brock to hold meetings in our parking lot area once we are in Stage 3, with the requirement to follow provincial guidelines. J. West stated that we need to still exercise some caution with regards to opening the church because of the Fourth Wave with the Delta variant that may be coming in the fall. Being fully vaccinated is not foolproof. There was some discussion about possibly doing two services, but this means double work for Pastor Ronnie. By then, we will have live streaming services, so that will not be necessary. T. Haapalehto suggested reserving spots for in-person worship services. **To Do: J. VanderWees will write something for the July PLC newsletter with our tentative reopening plans.**

Synod Assembly – June 25-26th: Pastor Ronnie is putting together digital music with help from Trevor Hicks. He will be briefing Lena and Joel Sievers. This is all new for Pastor Ronnie as well. On the Agenda is the Pension Plan. It is pretty drama free – there are no controversial issues. T. Haapalehto asked if the Constitution is being discussed. No, it is not on the Agenda. Pastor Ronnie sent us then a copy of the Assembly Information for our perusal.

Old Business:

Constitutional Changes and Process: The Constitution Task Force report prepared by Fiona was previously sent by email to Council to review. T. Haapalehto stated the Task Force needs 3 additional people from Council or from the congregation to meet for approximately 2 hours to review their decisions to retain or delete aspects of the 2008 Constitution. After they have gone through the changes, it will be presented in draft form to Council for their review. It was suggested that at least one of those members be someone with a long history at Peace in order to provide historical context. I. Toso, J. West and G. Bischof have offered to meet with Fiona, T. Haapalehto and Pastor Ronnie in August, since I. Toso is away for most of July and J. West is away from mid-July to beginning of August.

Prayers for the People: Confidential

Correspondence: No.

Reports:

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

- T. Haapalehto reported that Tandem Tree Service is pruning two trees and removing two trees on Wednesday, June 16th. The willow has fungus – it is not good to leave the stump. Tandem has agreed to leave 8 to 9 cubic yards of wood chips, which they will spread on the east wall flower bed after it has been weeded. Tandem will return to grind down the two stumps within 30 days.
- T. Haapalehto has received 5 quotations for replacement doors that are handicap friendly for the front entrance. He has reviewed them and selected the best three companies. Once he receives their final quotations, J. West and T. Haapalehto will review and recommend one of these contracts to Council. He has reconsidered having a cross etched on the glass – instead, he will put a thin film on the glass.
- All four defective wall mounted sanitizer dispensers will be removed. T. Haapalehto will buy large pump bottles with non-fragrant sanitizer.

- J. West installed an A/C unit in the church office – not the Sanctuary.
- T. Haapalehto and J. West will be meeting tomorrow with a contractor who specializes in addressing building ventilation/air quality issues.

Health Cabinet: No report.

Mutual Ministry: No report.

Olive Branch: R. Lantzsch is happy that we have almost reached our goal of \$4,000 for our girls. The monies received so far in the May statement is \$3,480, so \$520 short of our goal. We will wait until the fall before putting something in the newsletter, if there still is a shortfall. Pastor Ronnie suggested we can also use Deborah's video that she did for the Gala, to get the information out there to generate more interest as well as donations.

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 is on vacation from July 19th until August 15th. During his absence, there will be a sermon series available to the congregation – no full worship services will be recorded or coffee hour. When he returns, it will get hectic with installing the live stream equipment, figuring out how everything works and training volunteers. The PodCast is slow on the uptake. Pastor Ronnie will also change the worship services from "set time" to "anytime".

G. Bischof did the closing prayer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, August 17th, 2021 at 7 pm