

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Through Zoom, on Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 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: Ina Toso (Co-chair), Janet Van der Wees (Co-chair), Fiona Haapalehto (Secretary), Mike Balzer, Tapio Haapalehto, Jeremy West, Gloria Zorn and Pastor Ronnie Smith

Guest: Sunny Wishart, (Treasurer)

1. **Call to Order:** Ina Toso called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. **Opening:** Gloria did the opening devotion. Jan will do it in April.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** moved by Gloria, seconded by: Mike.
THAT the agenda for Tuesday, March 15, 2022, as amended, be approved. Discussion: Fiona mentioned there was feedback from Wayne Ruhnke on the finance aspects of the new proposed Constitution which should be discussed. We added this to the Chair vs Co-chair agenda item which relates to the Constitution. **CARRIED**

4. Approval of the Previous Minutes:

Moved by Tapio, seconded by Jan:

THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on February 15, 2022, as amended, be approved. Discussion: The Prayers for the People should be redacted before we post on the Web. Fiona mentioned a date needed to be corrected. **CARRIED.**

5. Treasurer's Report:

Sunny summarized her written report.

- We are not applying for the Provincial anti-hate grant for faith-based organizations to improve our security and safety systems. Council felt there was no need to pursue this.
- Ina, Jan, Sunny and Fiona have visited the CIBC Branch to add Ina and Fiona to our bank account.
- Funds that have been donated to our Podcast will be tracked, but will go into the General Fund.
- Sunny confirmed that "No Rock on Brock" donations will be reported as if they came into the offering plate.
- Sunny did research with CRA on donations-in-kind, for example where a purchase is made for the church but the donor only wants a charitable receipt. The government needs an independent evaluation of the value of this type of donation. It would require significant effort and potential expense. Sunny has recommended instead we will write a cheque to the person and have them donate the funds back to the church, where the amount would be eligible for a charitable receipt. This is a cleaner and easier solution.
- In the January financials that Sunny previously shared there is a line in accounts payable for the accounting fees (\$850) for the bookkeeper. This will be removed to reconcile the 2021/2022 financials. For their purposes it was reported as a 2021 expense. Sunny has asked them to readjust and she will send out the revised financial statement.

- Based on events following the Songs of the Spheres concert Council discussed how best to handle a situation where the performers should be compensated. Fiona suggested if the performers wanted a charitable receipt, we might want to pay an honorarium, then have them donate that back to the church, when a charitable receipt can be issued. This is similar to the donation-in-kind solution mentioned above. It was agreed this should be set up in advance.

Moved by Tapio, seconded by Mike:

THAT the Treasurer's Report & Financial Statements be approved. Discussion: None CARRIED

Jeremy asked for clarification on what portions of the Treasurer Report and Financial Statements go to Council vs to the congregation. Sunny clarified that the congregation receives only the Summary of the detailed document that Council receives.

Sunny left the Zoom Council meeting at 7:38 pm.

6. New Business:

a. Easter Breakfast:

Gloria asked for agreement to hold an Easter Breakfast as proposed at the February meeting. The group agreed as it is anticipated that most COVID restrictions will be lifted by mid-April. Gloria will prepare an announcement from Congregational Life for the Newsletter to outline that the meal will be a Pot Luck @ 9:00am on Easter Sunday.

Council agreed to a proposal that the following Sunday, April 24, might be a good time to restart Coffee Hour. We will offer tea, coffee and cookies, to start. An announcement will be added to the newsletter.

b. Congregational Survey

Ina reported that she would like the congregation to weigh in on where we need to put in our efforts as we resume more activities. Ronnie reported that when we did that a few years ago we got good feedback. Tapio recommended we wait until after the constitution meetings. Google Forms was proposed as the main tool for an online response. Jeremy suggested if we keep it short and sweet and online this will promote a quick response. For those not using the internet we can send a paper copy with their newsletter. Ina will prepare some questions for the survey for next council meeting.

c. Livestream Support for Cameron/Lena

Cameron and Lena are really working hard supporting our livestreaming efforts. Cameron, Lena and Ronnie have all tried to recruit people for help. An ad in the newsletter was proposed and it should market this opportunity to our members. Tapio suggested we might want to consider students who may need volunteer hours. Mike and Ina mentioned that the number of hours required by students was reduced during the pandemic. They now only need 20 hours as a pre-requisite to graduate from grade 12.

Ina & Jan will write an article for the April newsletter.

d. Renting out Livestreaming Services

Kateryna sent out this issue. She has had a request from the Quilters would like to run classes with the Livestream equipment. There may be more requests for this as more

rentals come forward. This could be a service to the community. The question was posed: Do we want to charge a nominal fee for livestreaming or include it in future rentals? It was agreed that we must ensure our Sundays are covered and we need to have extra resources trained before we start offering these services. There is a significant risk if we grant strangers access to our equipment. Ideally the renters would pay for our trained staff to come in and they would be compensated for their time.

Ronnie asked us to think about what policies do we need going forward.

Livestreaming currently goes out on the PLC YouTube Channel which may not be the best venue for others using this service. We should consider how best to change it to another channel for external events. **We also need to think about how best to leverage our equipment for our own ministries.**

e. Proposal to establish an Endowment Fund

Most of the people who were asked to weigh in on this feel we are not at a point to implement an Endowment Fund right now. We have done well financially with our current practices. With no offering as part of the service people are donating on the way in or the way out. No one is pressured to put something in the plate.

Reconsideration of an Endowment Fund should be added to a future agenda.

7. Old Business:

a. Future Council Meetings:

We discussed whether to keep our monthly meetings on Zoom, to meet exclusively in person or implement a hybrid model. It was concluded that a hybrid model could benefit people with a short report to the Council, or considerable distance to travel, meetings on nights with bad weather, etc. Our April meeting will be held using this hybrid model and the minutes will reflect who attended in person and those attending via Zoom.

b. Constitution Changes & Co-Chair vs Chair & Vice-chairs:

Feedback from Wayne Ruhnke, Chair of the Finance Team

(Discussions on the following item were held before Sunny left the meeting.)

Fiona reported she had followed up with Wayne Ruhnke about the portions of the constitution which deal with handling of the church's finances. His comments centered on two topics, how/whether we will handle the new concept of a Responsibility List and the relationship of the Financial Secretary, the Council and the Treasurer.

On the first item Council agreed that we keep the Responsibility List and Pastor will follow up with inactive members. This would go into effect after adoption of the new proposed constitution. However, he has been already keeping in touch with members when he can.

On the second item it was agreed that the Treasurer is ultimately responsible to the Council for the responsible handling of the church's finances, including the responsibilities of the Financial Secretary. Recent additions to the duties of the Financial Secretary do not need to be reflected in the Bylaws. Instead, they are laid out in the job descriptions in the new Procedures manual. Council determined it would not be necessary to change the Bylaws in the new constitution prior to our upcoming meetings.

Co-chair vs Chair & Vice Chair.

Following the February meeting Fiona followed up with Rev. Wendell Grahlman in the Synod office who gave us a detailed and well-thought-out response on this issue.

Ultimately, we might want to amend our constitution to include the co-chair model after the approval of the new proposed constitution. It would only require one meeting of the congregation under the revised amendment rules. We would only add it if it was determined that having Co-chairs was a permanent change in how we operate.

c. Update on No-vaccination Policy

Two people responded to the email that went out about removing the Vaccination policy. Jan contacted them both. They will wait a while before coming to church.

d. Follow up on Visioning

Ina asked Fiona to review where we left things off with the Visioning initiative.

Last year we had three action items; a) implementing a solution for on-line worship services, b) updating the constitution and laying the groundwork for a vote on Same-sex Blessings, and c) determining the role of the Health Cabinet after Heddi's retirement.

A brief background on the reason why Peace does not have a policy on Same-sex Blessing was provided for new members of Council.

The initiative to determine the role of the Health Cabinet has stalled. It is unclear whether there is someone to lead this group going forward. It was suggested that a new mandate drawing from the skills of anyone wishing to reignite this group would be in order.

e. Prayers for the People

- Christ the King is folding at the end of April. They want to donate some of their religious items and materials to Peace.
- Ukraine & Russia.

f. Correspondence

Ina asked if there is any correspondence to consider. Ronnie said there is none.

8. Reports: Ina requested verbal reports for the following committees/activities.

a. Property

- Jeremy continues to do the rounds at the church. Tapio asked if he might have an end date in mind. He feels there is an ongoing need. He reported there are often lights on and doors unlocked when he comes to check. Ronnie mentioned that Confirmation is now happening in-person on Wednesday evenings.
- An issue with our snow clearing company has come up. In summary, we have received an invoice from C&R Paving for additional saltings for 2022, over and above the 10 in the contract. Since funds for this cost was not in the budget, he is seeking approval to pay. There has been more snow than usual this year and we do need to keep our parking lot and entrances free of ice. Tapio reminded Council that he sought new quotes from snow removal outfits in 2021 but C&R Paving came in at the best price. (\$3500 vs \$10,000+).

At the start of the current season Tapio added a clause to the contract to require them to give a heads-up when they have to salt over and above the 10 in the contract. Unfortunately, they did not notify us so he will remind them. The Council agreed for Sunny to pay the current invoice. Tapio advised that another invoice will be forthcoming in mid-April when the contract ends.

- e-Transfers for parking. Jeremy and Kateryna worked out a procedure that is working well.
- Should we have a spring clean up date? The feeling was that it is not needed. Tapio offered to help Jan with the veggie garden.

b. Health Cabinet: no report

c. **Worship & Arts:** Giselle reported by email that the Worship Assistant roster is complete through April and a Worship and Arts meeting will be scheduled after Easter.

d. **Mutual Ministry: no report**

e. **Congregational Life:** Easter Breakfast will be held on Easter Sunday and Coffee service to start April 24.

f. **Pastor Ronnie: attached**

9. **Closing Prayer:** Gloria did the closing prayer.

10. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Next Council Meeting – **Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm via hybrid Zoom & in person model**