

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
on Thursday, February 16th, 2023 at 7:00 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:

In-person (Hern Room): Janet Van der Wees (Co-chair), Ina Toso (Co-chair), Fiona Haapalehto (Secretary), Mike Balzer, Tapio Haapalehto, Jeremy West, and Pastor Ronnie Smith.

Via Zoom: Gloria Zorn, Sunny Wishart (Treasurer)

Guest: none.

Regrets: none

1. **Call to Order:** Jan called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.
2. **Opening:** Mike did the opening devotion & prayer. Jan will do it for the next meeting.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:**
Moved by: Ina, seconded by: Jeremy
THAT the agenda for Thursday, February 16th, 2023, be approved.
Discussion: None. **CARRIED**
4. **Approval of the Previous Minutes:**
Moved by Ina, seconded by Tapio
THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on January 26th, 2023, be approved.
Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**
Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on November 8th, 2022.
Moved by Ina, seconded by Tapio
THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on November 8th, 2022, be approved. **Discussion:** These minutes are confidential and will not be made public. **CARRIED.**
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
We have discovered the source of the financial discrepancies and are in the process of getting this amended. The church pays 8% towards Ronnie's pension, he contributes 7% of his salary. In 2022, Ronnie's salary increased from 2021: \$74,069 to 2022: \$75,357 and ELCIC was not notified of this increase, it remains a mystery who updated GSI of his 2021 salary increase. What has happened is Ceridian continued to deduct 7% based Ronnie's 2022 salary, however the church continued to pay ELCIC based on the outdated 2021 salary. We have notified ELCIC of this error.

The amount owing from the church is \$193.20 which GSI has recovered on the January invoice as we couldn't get this fixed up in time for the 2022 year-end review

You'll notice on the financials there are expenses from ELCIC for Kateryna's benefits, this is because we are billed mid-January for December pension and benefit payments, therefore they carried forward into January financials.

Stained Glass Windows: The cheque for \$8,736,85 has been issued but not cashed yet, therefore you'll see the special purpose fund shows the remaining balance but not the expense yet, that's because this is an account payable at this time, you'll see the expense once the cheque clears.

GIC Renewal Feb.28, 2023 \$10,463, it was in a 1yr at 0.9%. The \$18,400 GIC doesn't come up for renewal until June. The CIBC Bonus Rate is 3.5% for 12 months, they're also offering 3.5% for 270 days

Recommending we do the 12 months at 3.5%, we can go longer but the rates being offered decrease over the longer period.

Moved by Tapio, seconded by Mike

THAT Sunny contact CIBC to get a 1-yr GIC at 3.5%, if not available to get a 6-month GIC at 3.25%. Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Tapio, seconded by Mike

THAT the January Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report, as amended, be approved.

Discussion: Tapio pointed out that the budgeted amount for Rental Income and Miscellaneous income in her January report were transposed. Sunny acknowledged this. She has amended the report and will send out the modified report. **CARRIED.**

Sunny left the meeting at 7:27 pm.

6. New Business:

a. Fine Tuning the AGM – tellers to count ballots

Two people will be selected to count ballots for the Council motion and the election, if needed. Jeremy mentioned it cannot be Council members.

b. AGM Motions – role of Council members

Council members are asked to move/second motions at the AGM if there is no other person attending who does this.

There was a discussion about holding an election for the new Council members, unless there are additional candidates nominated from the floor at the AGM.

Fiona raised the option of acclaiming the four candidates named in the Nominating report, in which case the Secretary casts a vote to declare them appointed. However, Jeremy and Gloria mentioned that an election should be held regardless so the congregation has a say. This has been the practice in the past.

c. Revised Expense Claim Form – Bill Gregor

Bill has updated the Expense Claim Form and Jan distributed it. Tapio has an excel version that can be filled in, signed and submitted electronically.

d. CC Meeting to follow AGM to select Officers

This will immediately follow the AGM while everyone is there.

e. Collection Plate

Jan was asked why there is no collection plate in the Sanctuary. A member felt that visitors would look for one to make a donation. This will be deferred to the next meeting.

******* See additional online motions/votes detailed at the end of this document. *******

1. Vote on new camera for livestreaming

2. *Vote on permitting same sex blessings at Peace*
3. *Vote to adopt Agenda for 2022 AGM*
4. *Vote to Upgrade Church Security System*

7. **Old Business:**

- a. **Free Dementia Workshop (deferred to next meeting)**
- b. **Farmer's Market Proposal (deferred to next meeting)**

8. **Prayers for the People**

Names have also been shared with the intercessors.

9. **Correspondence**

Three pieces of correspondence were received.

- A thank you note from the Community Food Bank (St. Paul's On-the-hill) for our recent donation
- A thank you note from the Canadian Lutheran World Relief for our \$250.00 gift.
- Janice Verch from Camp Lutherlyn sent an update for the congregation. She suggested it could be distributed at the AGM.

10. **Reports:**

- **Property (reported submitted by email Tapio)**
 - **Security Alarm System Upgrade:**
 - Jeremy has responded to numerous false alarms attributed to the basement door since January's Council meeting. He and ADT/Telus have not been able to isolate the intermittent fault. After consulting with and receiving a quotation from ADT sales, on Feb 10 he sent an email to the Council outlining a quote he received from Telus/ADT for a new upgraded improved alarm package.
 - The new system will have door sensors/monitoring on all exterior doors, motion detectors in old narthex, new narthex, office and basement, and key pads at the main doors and basement. This replaces and updates the existing system.
 - In addition, cameras will be installed to monitor the entranceways plus some of the parking lot. Recordings from the camera will be stored on a 2TB Drive, provided with our package and stored at the church. It will have battery backup, the same as our existing system.
 - Council approved the motions to install the new system and to pay from the Property Maintenance Reserve Fund. The package cost is approx. \$3855 plus tax. For this price, we get the cameras at no additional cost. The monthly monitoring fee will stay the same at \$65.00 plus tax.
 - Installation will be February 27th.
 - **Boiler:** Jeremy found the boiler not working about 2 weeks ago due to a drop in water pressure. The cause is uncertain so we'll continue to monitor.
 - The plaques for the stained-glass windows still need to be installed.
 - **Tapio & Jeremy** will continue to take the lead on Property issues after they leave Council. Jan thanked them both for their continued dedication and for all they have achieved.

- **Worship & Arts: (verbal report Fiona)**
 - Next meeting is March 8th. Rosie L. continues to schedule Worship Assistants.
 - Ronnie has picked up the wine.
- **Mutual Ministry: (verbal report Fiona)**
 - No update.
- **Congregational Life: (verbal report-Gloria)**
 - Gloria reported 45 people have signed up for Shrove Tuesday.
 - An announcement will be made for the AGM Potluck for finger foods only.
 - Gloria has been calling people about Pauline's funeral.
 - A Council member needs to be appointed to report for monthly Congregational Life reports. (Other committees also need a rep to submit monthly reports – new Council).
- **Finance Team**
 - No separate report this month.
- **Pastor's Report for December/January (Report submitted by email Pastor)**
 - Pastoral Acts:
 - funeral – Peter Mueller
 - AGM
 - Prepared Outreach, Education, Pastor and Statistical Reports for the annual report for the Annual General Meeting.
 - Church Council
 - meet monthly with council, prepare a monthly report
 - Black History Month/Education
 - Rev. Denise Gillard will be our guest preacher on February 19th to honour Black History Month. Peace will continue to look to find ways to build a long term relationship with the black community.
 - ELCIC – Eastern Synod
 - Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Adam Snook will be visiting April 23rd. In addition to preaching, Adam will be leading us through a workshop on Mission Grant applications.
 - Durham Multifaith Community
 - Continuing to participate, along with several congregants, in the Indigenous Canada Study. I facilitated the January discussion.
 - Sunday Services
 - Weekly sermon preparation, reading, writing, collegial discussions.
 - Produce/coordinate services, order of service, full and concise versions. Excel sheet for use by the Tech Team, help coordinate volunteers/worship assistants, live stream uploads and distribution, tech support, etc.
 - Music Team rehearsal each Sunday, hymn selections in coordination with Kirsten and Eleanore, etc.
 - Introducing a lot of material from All Creation Sings.
 - Intercessors
 - Ongoing participation/engagement with intercessor prayer group. Often requires follow up visits/phone calls/texts/emails
 - Communications

- Email, phone calls, zoom calls, texts, social media posts, newsletter/gratitude corner submission, review of Synodical and National church communications, etc.
- Worship & Arts
 - Met to discuss previous and upcoming services.
 - Picked up wine bottles from Carousel.
- Office
 - Have taken over the office duties in light of the staffing changes.
 - Duties include financial records management/assistance, answer phones, checking mail, and mailing newsletters to congregation members, management of rentals, etc.
 - Took a couple of sick days.
- Pastor will send Livestreaming stats etc. for January at a later time.
- Ina spoke about how important it is to continue to monitor these stats to validate that we continue to reach people on social media.

11. Closing Prayer: Mike did the closing reading/prayer.

12. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Next Council Meeting – **Thursday, Mar 16th, 7:00 pm via hybrid Zoom & in person model.**

Online Votes held between Council Meetings: 2

1. Vote on New Camera for Livestreaming

Background:

Jeremy mentioned at the January meeting that Cameron reported that one of the cameras used for livestreaming was fuzzy. It needs to be replaced.

Cameron found what we need for approx. \$1300 +HST. This is cheaper than he first thought.

Moved by Jeremy, seconded by Fiona on January 22, 2023: That a replacement camera be purchased at a cost not to exceed \$1300 plus HST and to pay for the new camera from the Property Maintenance Reserve Fund. CARRIED by email vote on January 24, 2023.

2. Vote on Permitting Same Sex Blessings at Peace

Background:

In 2011 the ELCIC voted to allow pastors to perform same-sex blessings however they left it to each congregation to make their own determination if these ceremonies could take place at their churches. Finding no record that this was ever voted on by the congregation at PLC, the Council decided as part of the constitution update to add a message of welcome to all people regardless of race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. It was hoped that this would lay the groundwork for a positive vote to permit same-sex blessings at PLC. The new constitution has now been adopted so it is appropriate that this issue should be tabled at the upcoming 2022 AGM. It was discussed but not voted on at the January meeting because of an oversight.

Moved by: Fiona Seconded by Jan on January 24, 2023: Discussion: Pastor Ronnie asked that the pronoun 'he' be changed to 'they'. All agreed.

That Peace adopt a policy in which same sex blessings will be offered in our Sanctuary by our Pastor in the same way they perform weddings between heterosexual couples. Further, that this be recommended for approval by the congregation at the 2022 AGM scheduled for February 26, 2023. CARRIED by email vote on February 3, 2023.

3. Vote to adopt Agenda for the 2022 AGM.

Background:

The AGM package needs to be ready for distribution three days prior to the next CC Meeting. This Agenda must be approved and included in the Annual Report by February 12th.

Moved by: Fiona Seconded by Jan on February 4, 2023: Discussion: Jeremy recommended that the vote on Same Sex Blessings be carried out by ballot. All agreed. This was added to the Agenda.

To adopt the Agenda for the 2022 Annual General Meeting as outlined in the attachment.

CARRIED by email vote on February 5, 2023.

4. Vote to Upgrade Church Security System.

Background:

Jeremy has responded to numerous false alarms attributed to the basement door since January's Council meeting. He and ADT/Telus have not been able to isolate the intermittent fault. After consulting with and receiving a quotation from ADT sales on Feb 10 he sent an email to the Council outlining a quote he received from Telus/ADT for anew upgraded improved alarm package.

The new system will have door sensors/monitoring on all exterior doors, motion detectors in old narthex, new narthex, office and basement, and key pads at the main doors and basement. This replaces and updates the existing system.

In addition, cameras will be installed to monitor the entranceways plus some of the parking lot. Recordings from the cameras will be stored on a 2TB Drive, provided with our package and stored at the church. It will have battery backup, the same as our existing system.

The package cost is approx. \$3855 plus tax. For this price, we get the cameras at no additional cost. The monthly monitoring fee will stay the same at \$65.00 plus tax

Both Motions Moved by: Jeremy Seconded by Tapio on February 10, 2023: Discussion: All info outlined in Background.

1) That Council approves the installation of the new system by Telus/ADT,

2) That Council agrees to pay for the system from the Property Maintenance Reserve Fund

CARRIED by email vote on February 13, 2023.