

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
on Thursday, March 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), Rosie Lantzsch (Co-chair), Fiona Haapalehto (Secretary), Mike Balzer, Analisa Chand, Sirkka Taylor, David Wishart and Pastor Ronnie Smith.

Via Zoom: Sunny Wishart (Treasurer)

Guest: none.

Regrets: none

1. **Call to Order:** Jan called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
2. **Opening:** Jan did the opening devotion & prayer. David will do it for the next meeting.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:**

Moved by: Rosie, seconded by: Mike

THAT the agenda for Thursday, March 16th, 2023, be approved.

Discussion: None. **CARRIED**

4. **Approval of the Previous Minutes:**

Moved by Mike, seconded by Fiona

THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on February 16th, 2023, be approved. Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**

Moved by Mike, seconded by Rosie

THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on February 26th, 2023, be approved. Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**

5. **Treasurer's Report:**

The HST rebate was deposited Feb 14th for the last half of 2022.

Fiona and Sunny signed for the GIC renewal with CIBC on March 1st.

The next GIC is up for renewal on June 5th.

The new alarm system was installed at a cost of \$3855+tax from the Property Maintenance Reserve Fund, billed quarterly. That was paid.

Moved by Sirkka, seconded by David

THAT the February Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report, be approved. Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**

Sunny left the meeting at 7:26 pm.

6. New Business:

a. Role of the Co-Chairs

Having Co-chairs means we have two people in the loop of emerging issues. Jan will always do the agenda and expense forms. Rosie and Jan will take turns chairing the meeting. The person leading cannot vote, but the alternate can. When necessary Rosie will write reports from the Council in the newsletter.

b. Welcoming New Members

Jan welcomed all the new members. She invited each new person to say how they would like to contribute to the congregation. Analisa could work with Youth, Sirkka would like to work with Women, she had volunteered at outreach at Peace prior to the pandemic, Rosie outlined the wide range of things she already does for Peace. David is very comfortable with numbers (working in banking) and some experience with fundraising with another non-profit.

The existing members of Council introduced themselves (Pastor Ronnie, Jan, Mike & Fiona).

c. Concerns relating to administrative duties

Shirley Fingler had raised this at the AGM. So far, the current arrangement is working out. Pastor Ronnie will raise any issues when he feels the administrative issues get in the way of his pastoral duties. He is also mindful that he needs to take time for family and for himself but also to be available to meet with anyone who asks.

It was suggested that Ronnie develop a list of administrative tasks by season and when it looks like the workload is getting too much he can ask for help.

d. Contact people for various committees

The following members agreed to be liaison people:

Property – Mike

Congregational life – Sirkka

Finance – David

Education - Analisa

e. Revised members and friends list

Pastor Ronnie updated and circulated a new list. There may be people who do not want their names circulated to all members. The next time we circulate this we should ask for anyone who wishes to be excluded to declare that before it goes out to everyone.

Ronnie outlined the criteria to be a member.

f. Investing with Serenia Life

Jan contacted Jewell at Serenia Life about the options to renew our next GIC due in June. She provided three options: Serenia Life, Manulife Inc and Desjardins Insurance. Jan circulated the options provided in advance of the meeting and consulted with Wayne Ruhnke, chair of the Finance Team for input. Wayne reported that he will consult with the members of the Finance team about moving to another investment source. David asked about whether these options are backed by CDIC insurance like the options at the major banks. The Council will wait for input from the Finance Team to make a decision as the timing for the renewal of our next GIC isn't until June.

g. Food Bank Items

Ronnie said we are fairly regularly handing out food items to people coming to the church. It may not be necessary to take items to the Food Bank.

Ronnie mentioned there is a local organization called Dar's Gifts. They don't yet have charitable status. They've been helping Taylor for the past two years. They have been helping with preparing & serving hot meals at St Paul's. Pastor will be meeting with them.

Sirkka suggested we add a slide at our weekly service to encourage people to bring food for the food bank. Pastor Ronnie can add a slide for any type of announcement.

h. Date for Council Installation

This will be scheduled on Easter Sunday, April 9th.

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

1. Making Digital Copies of the Blueprints

7. Old Business:

a. Free Dementia Workshop (deferred from last meeting)

There is low appetite to spearhead this initiative. We will take this off the agenda.

b. Farmer's Market Proposal (deferred from last meeting)

It would not be possible to do this in 2023. It would take a team to manage this event and we might need to hire someone to lead this. We do need to have a marketing committee initiative.

We will take this off the agenda.

8. Prayers for the People

Names have been shared with the intercessors.

9. Correspondence

- Jan received a letter from a real estate agent offering to discuss sale of the church property. There is no action needed as Council is not interested in selling.
- Pastor Ronnie received a letter from Long and McQuade asking to host 3 recitals at Peace on Saturdays/Sundays in June. He will meet with them to discuss terms.

10. Reports:

- **Property (reported submitted by email Tapio)**
- Security Alarm System Upgrade: Was completed successfully on March 2nd by ADT/Telus technicians with the assistance of Jeremy. The system continues to operate without issue and is a great improvement for both for building/parking lot security monitoring and its management.
- Clean-up Dates: Scheduling the Spring Clean-up Day for Saturday, April 29th with a rain date of May 6th and the Fall Clean-up Day for Saturday, Oct 28th with a rain date of Nov 4th.
- **Worship & Arts: (report submitted by email- Fiona)**
- Upcoming Services: Jeremy will put up the Banners for Holy Week
 - **Palm Sunday – 10:30** Pastor Ronnie has ordered Palm branches. They should come the week before Palm Sunday.
 - **Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm** Four people are needed for the end of the service to strip the Altar – 2 in the Sanctuary and 2 receiving the paraments and Rosie will put those names on the Worship Assistant schedule
 - **Good Friday – 10:30, Easter Sunday – 10:30**
 - **Olive Branch – April 16** - Potluck
 - **Adam Snook – April 23** – Workshop on applying for Mission Grants
 - **Mother's Day - May 14** – Rosie might do a sermon on the Olive Branch
 - **Healing Service – May 28 - Elizabeth would like to do a healing service.** Pastor Ronnie will follow up with her. It could be scheduled on the Sunday that Pastor Ronnie will be on vacation in May.
- Pastor Ronnie reported:
 - The tech team has expanded to 4 people. There's not so much pressure on Cam and Lena, now we have Dawn S. and Rahul.
 - Ronnie is interested in sprucing up the church. He has invited an interior designer to consult. As a congregation we should think of changes we would like to see. He will

consult more widely in the congregation. Improvements will attract more rentals. Google reviews have pointed out the space is dated. A more updated décor is needed.

- Other:
 - **Altar Guild Duties** – Rosie has drafted a list of Altar Guild Duties. A meeting will be called for Altar Guild volunteers to review the duties. An updated chart will be posted in the Sacristy to track when to change the paraments. Ronnie will supply the chart.
 - **Sirkka** will join the committee and will back up Rosie on the Worship Assistant scheduling.
- **Mutual Ministry: (verbal report Fiona)**
 - Shari Nelson (former chair at Christ the King) has offered to join the committee.
- **Congregational Life: (verbal report-Rosie)**
 - Forty-two (42) people came to the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. Thanks to Denyse and Gary for the ham and Fiona & Tapio for the peameal bacon.
 - Easter Potluck breakfast Easter Sunday morning at 9:00. Heddi's Egg Roll will be held.
 - CL will help with potluck lunch on Olive Branch Sunday.
- **Finance Team**
 - No separate report this month. Fiona spoke recently to Wayne and they plan to meet are about 3 times per year.
- **Olive Branch**
 - The OBC decided to use the “Hear Them Roar” theme this year, to be done on a monthly basis, commencing in April when Deborah visits us.
 - In May, Rosie will do a sermon and PowerPoint presentation on “Hear Them Roar In Confidence”, giving current information on the various ways the Olive Branch for Children supports and helps the Communities around them, i.e. Mobile Library unit, Montessori schools they helped build, mobile health units, Microfinance, Income Generating Opportunities and so much more. Depending on what Deborah chooses, in June it will be either “Love” or “Enthusiasm”. In September, we will do “Hear us Roar in Support”. Need to finalize who is doing June and September.
 - Our adopted daughter Mlombwa has come full circle – she is now a Teacher at the Olive Branch Montessori school.
 - Deborah will be with us on Sunday, April 16th. It was decided that we will do potluck for lunch.
 - During the AGM, Shirley stated that Mlombwa is already out of school and asked if we should continue to support her. The committee will do a “Graduation Send Off” for Mlombwa this year and just support Laudia until she is finished school. The remainder of funds raised will go to support TOBFC and the Peace Home in general. We can raise awareness and present different aspects of the staff/volunteers we support.
- **Pastor's Report (Report submitted by email Pastor)**
 - **Pastoral Acts:**
 - 1 Funeral – Pauline Steinke
 - **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.

Camp Lutherlyn:

- Coordinating a delegation from Peace to attend the Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherlyn. We will be sending 5 6 students this year.

Olive Branch for Children:

- Began planning with the committee to support the Olive Branch this year.

AGM:

- Co-hosted the Annual General Meeting with Janet and Fiona.

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, visitations, newsletter/gratitude corner submission, review of Synodical and National church communications, etc.

Worship & Arts:

- Met to discuss previous and upcoming services.
- Taking vacation May 28th and August 20th/27th.

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.
- Management of rental arrangements for parking and building.
- Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am – 4pm
- Updated the membership list.
- Updated the office email contact list.

Durham Multifaith Community:

- Continuing to participate, along with several congregants, in the Indigenous Canada Study.

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.
- Met with ELCIC Eastern Synod clergy/Synod staff.

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

12. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Next Council Meeting – **Thursday, Apr 20th, 7:00 pm via hybrid Zoom & in person model.**

Online Votes held between Council Meetings:

1. Making Digital Copies of the Blueprints

Background:

Pastor Ronnie contacted the Council on March 1st to ask for approval to give our blueprints to two interior designers to make digital copies of them. Ronnie is consulting with the designers for ideas to spruce up the church. No formal motion was needed.

Fiona, David, Janet, Rosemarie and Michael voted to approve. Approval was given March 3, 2023.