

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
on Thursday, April 20th, 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, Sirkka Taylor, and David Wishart.

Via Zoom: Sunny Wishart (Treasurer)

Guest: none.

Regrets: Analisa Chand, Pastor Ronnie Smith.

1. **Call to Order:** Rosie called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
2. **Opening: David** did the opening devotion. Sirkka will do it for the next meeting.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:**
Moved by: Jan, seconded by: Mike
THAT the agenda for Thursday, April 20th, 2023, be approved, as amended.
Discussion: Fiona asked to add a request from Jeremy to receive the monthly financials.
CARRIED
4. **Approval of the Previous Minutes:**
Moved by Mike, seconded by Sirkka
THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on March 16th, 2023, be approved.
Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - The pre-authorized payments to pay the visa in full monthly are finally working, yay!
 - Quarterly cheques to special funds have been prepared.
 - There was a miscommunication with the ADT set up invoice, we received the invoice for the installation however I had thought it would come out with our following pre-authorized monthly payment, it did not. ADT/Telus reached out and they took the payment on April 10th, you'll see this next month.
 - There was a \$1,524 expense from the AV Shop to purchase a camera, this is taken from the property maintenance reserve fund.

Moved by Sirkka, seconded by: Fiona

THAT the March Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report, be approved.

Discussion: Rosie asked when the first Quarterly Financial Statement will be sent out to the members? Sunny will have it ready soon and will send it to the Council for review.

Ronnie had asked about investment options. Discussion on this will wait until he returns. As reported in the Property report it was necessary to end the rental of the Bible study group. This will significantly affect our annual income.

Rosie mentioned that she needs to be added onto the church bank account, and Ina must be taken off. Sunny was asked to arrange this. Rosie said it should be done around mid-May to meet everyone's schedules.

CARRIED.

6. New Business:

a. Jeremy's request to see the monthly financial reports.

Fiona was contacted by Jeremy to be sent the monthly financials as he has detected some errors in the allocation of the property expenses.

THAT Jeremy be included in the monthly mailout of financials to review Property expenses. Moved by: Jan, seconded by: Mike. Discussion: Sunny and Jan support this. It is necessary to ensure property expenses are reviewed by someone on the property team to ensure proper allocation prior to processing the expense, but errors can happen so this will be helpful. **CARRIED**

Sunny left the meeting at 7:36 pm.

b. Partnering with DARS

Pastor Ronnie and Jan explored the option of partnering with DARS as an outreach initiative. This organization has been working with Taylor.

DARS is designated as a Not-for-Profit organization. They will eventually be official a charitable organization but right now the legal cost to do this would be \$7,000.00 unless they do all the work themselves. Margaret and Darlene are far too busy serving the needs of the homeless and low-income people in Pickering.

Jan met with Margaret and Darleen two weeks ago. They are a small organization but they run a community luncheon at the library. They have a small foodbank. They will take fresh produce so we can send them the crop from our community garden.

Jan is proposing that we offer our kitchen to them for low-income persons to receive cooking lessons. This would likely be scheduled for 4-6 weeks one day per week in the fall. Someone from the church would need to be here. They have their own insurance. There doesn't seem to be any obstacle for this. They will submit a proposal to Pastor Ronnie.

c. Community Garden

Neither Helen nor Jan is able to spearhead this project this year. Helen has offered to water weekly. Ina and Lynn will also water. Others are also happy to help.

Jan indicated that Ronnie will call a meeting soon. Whoever leads need to know what quantity of seedlings to buy, e.g. tomatoes, zucchini.

d. Volunteers to Count the Offering

Shirley and Ruth have stepped back from this. This leaves only four people who now have to be scheduled every other week. Sirkka and Mike agreed to join the roster. Rosie will schedule them with more experienced Counters to train them.

Jan mentioned with so many e-transfers we could schedule Counters every other Sunday through the summer. There are far fewer cheques that need to be deposited. Rosie will amend the schedule and send it to all volunteers.

David asked whether we could expand the number of ways people could donate, perhaps through QR code posted in the church, or in the pews that links to Canada Helps? Ronnie will be asked to consider this.

7. Old Business:

a. Investing with Serenia Life

We have not heard from the Finance Team. Maybe they need to be asked again to submit their input. David will follow up with Wayne.

8. Prayers for the People

Ronnie regularly shares names with the intercessors. Analisa has lost a family member. Pastor Ronnie, Pastor Hilla and Vilja are all sick.

9. Correspondence

- None

10. Reports:

- **Property (reported submitted by email-Tapio) (Liaison Mike)**
 - Shortly after March's Council meeting, Pastor terminated the rental agreement with Dunamis Youth Bible Study, after consultation with Jeremy and Tapio. They were in arrears for weekly Sunday rental payments and found to be using additional hours, spaces and equipment without preapproval and compensation. With annual budgeted income of \$6,000 from this group the loss of this rental revenue is significant.
 - Jeremy and Tapio have received Fernie Works' 2023 lawn care contract for 12 bi-weekly service at an undiscounted cost of \$1,416. The contract terms are unchanged from last year, includes a 5% increase in pricing, has no HST charges and allows for a 5% pre-pay discount. Tapio has requested the contract be updated to include a clause stating their exemption from charging HST. Once the revised contract is received, we will sign and forward it to Sunny for full payment. With the pre-pay discount, the total cost will be 1,345.20. There is \$2,000 in the 2023 budget for lawn care, allowing for a 10% cost increase and \$300 for additional lawn care services. (Tapio received the revised contract today).
 - Tapio will be seeking quotations for the long-delayed front door replacements, with automatic openers. We will also request costs to add automatic openers for the inner fire doors into the Narthex. There is \$9,614.33 for this project in the Family of Funds - Property Maintenance Reserve – which includes funds donated for the front door replacement. Based on previous quotes received, it may require an additional couple of thousand to make the doors fully wheelchair accessible. (Mike provided additional information).
 - Rosie requested that the Altar mic be looked at as it is not working well.
- **Worship & Arts: (verbal report - Fiona)**
 - No report this month. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10.
- **Mutual Ministry: (verbal report -Fiona)**
 - No report this month.

- **Congregational Life: (verbal report -Sirkka)**
 - Sirkka reported the Easter breakfast and the potluck for Olive Branch went well.
 - Sirkka would like to reinstate the Senior's lunch. She proposed that Sunny is a great resource who might be able to do a presentation on reverse mortgages. Other topics might be benefits when people die, during palliative care, and for medical devices or Estate planning. Publicizing the lunch would also need to be done. Sirkka will head a committee to carry this out. Rosie thanked Sirkka for the thought she has put into this.
- **Olive Branch (verbal report -Rosie)**
 - Rosie did speak to Deborah about reallocating the funds previously intended for Mlombwa to the needs at the Peace Home and OB, generally. Funds will still be allocated for Laudia.
 - She has written an article for the Newsletter in support of the fundraising.
- **Pastor's Report**
 - **No report this month**
- **Finance Team**
 - **No report this month.**

11. Closing Prayer: David did the closing prayer.

12. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Next Council Meeting – **Thursday, May 18th, 7:00 pm via hybrid Zoom & in person model.**