

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
on Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 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, and David Wishart.

**Regrets:** Pastor Ronnie Smith, Sunny Wishart (Treasurer)

**Via Zoom:** none

**Guest via Zoom:** none

1. **Call to Order:** Rosie called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. **Opening:** Analisa did the opening devotion. Rosie or Jan will do it for the next meeting, depending on Rosie's availability.

3. **Approval of the Agenda:**

**Moved by: Jan, seconded by: Sirkka**

**THAT the agenda for Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, be approved.**

**Discussion:** None.

**CARRIED**

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

**Moved by: David, seconded by: Analisa**

**THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, be approved.**

**Discussion:** None. **CARRIED.**

5. **Treasurer's Report:**

- Bethan as pulpit supply (\$200) was categorized as a Worship and Arts expense as there was no budget for guest pastor in 2023.

Spring Concert Offering

- Confirming that the free-will offering from this concert is to be categorized Worship and Arts: Music, we could put these funds under Special Purpose Funds? W&A: Music
- This amount totaled \$280 and will appear in the June Income.

CIBC visit June 8, 2023 (Sunny, Fiona, Rosie):

- GIC \$18,525 renewed June 8th into a 90-day GIC at 3.1%, maturity date Sept.6, 2023, it will earn \$141.61 interest at maturity.
- Signing authorities updated, removed Ina Toso and added Rosie Lantzsch.
- I inquired about removing the security on our Visa, currently the Visa has a \$5,000 limit and is secured using \$5,000 of our bank account balance. The pros to getting it unsecured is that if we do choose to change institutions, we can keep the Visa with CIBC if we'd like.

The cons to getting it unsecured would be that we have to do the below process. Here is the bankers' reply:

- *"I spoke with my back-office team, they mention that we may get the visa plus unsecured. The only information we will need are financial statements for the business. If we would like we may do that, but the results may vary as we may get an increase amount or decrease on the credit card."*

**Moved by: Sirkka, seconded by: Mike**

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

**Discussion:** Fiona noted that any pulpit supply expenses should be charged against the Pulpit Supply budget line, regardless if there are budgeted funds or not. To charge them against Worship & Arts makes this cost invisible. We didn't need Pulpit Supply funds during the pandemic so they came off the budget but Pastor Ronnie won't always be able to preside so we should have a budget.

**CARRIED**

## **6. New Business:**

### **a. Property Insurance Renewal**

- Jan will complete the forms and sign it. Bill has sent Jan comments on it. The Finance Team should also review it as Bill feels we are underinsured.
- It should come to the **July CC meeting** for approval. It is due in August\*. Jeremy and Tapio will be requested to weigh in on certain aspects.

*\* Jan sent a correction: "the forms are due in June Sunny has the cheque ready for \$9,477.00. I have already sent the 2 forms that I need help with to Jeremy and Tapio. I am away next week but I will meet with Pastor Ronnie on Tuesday June 27th to make certain everything needed is included in our renewal. Cherry Insurance is not concerned that our cheque may arrive after June 30th but I will send them an email just to confirm that the cheques is in the mail. We haven't even received the formal renewal form in the mail yet. What I took out of Sunny's slot was the complete document that Ronnie copied for her. All I needed for now was a copy of the two forms that Tapio and Jeremy need to help with."*

- Fiona informed the new Council members that a detailed overview was made on the Insurance last year by the Finance Team and the Property Team where all insurable contents of the building were photographed and a property evaluation was done.

### **b. Growing Together in Peace, PLC 2023/2024 Growth Strategy**

- Jan emailed David's PowerPoint presentation to the Council ahead of the meeting for their consideration.
- Tonight, David reviewed his analysis through the use of 4 agenda items.
  - PLC's Financial Picture
  - The Pillars of Church Growth
  - Objectives and Key Results – Bringing the OKR approach to PLC's mission
  - Digital Evangelism - Spreading the Word in the Age of Technology
- David suggested that, in the Fall we present the new approach to church growth to the congregation to stir up interest and hopefully, some volunteers to help implement it.
- **Next Steps –**

- **CC members asked to look at the initiatives on the last page, see what areas we have an interest in and think about an approach to implement that initiative.**
- **CC members and other congregation members are asked to post a Google Review about PLC. This will start to develop a reputation for PLC online to attract.**
- **Revisit next month.**

**c. Offering Plate Circulation**

- A member approached Rosie about reinstating this practice, as a response to our financial situation. The offering is a symbolic gesture for many people and not having a set time in the service for this may be confusing for newcomers.
- The Council discussed the various options. It was noted that some people feel obligated to give when the plate goes around, when they might not have the means.
- The AM could make an announcement about ways to give at the usual offering time – the box/plate at the rear of the sanctuary and the QR codes in the pews. This should be a set script so all AM's use the same information.
- Ronnie could bring more attention to blessing the offerings (time/talents/treasure) that are being received.
- Rosie will talk to Giselle to discuss during W&A next meeting.

**d. Name Tag Sundays**

- A member approached Fiona about reinstating Name Tag Sundays, to help newcomers get to know our names and vice versa. This was practiced one Sunday a month in the past.
- It was noted that we would need a second greeter on those Sundays to ensure newcomers have a name tag. Mailboxes would need to be designated/redistributed for newcomers to store their name tags.
- Rosie will talk to Giselle to discuss during W&A next meeting.

**e. Possible Rental to Muslim Prayer Group**

- Pastor Ronnie forwarded an email on June 13 from Mohammed Hossain. He is asking for rental of the church basement on Fridays from 1-3 for congregational prayers for a group of 50 Muslims who live in Bay Ridges, use of a storage room for prayer mats.
- There is support for this rental.

**Moved by: Sirkka, seconded by: Mike**

**THAT the Rental to the Muslim Prayer Group for Fridays from 1-3 starting June 24, be approved. Rental rate to be \$50/hour.**

**Discussion:** The group indicated they would like to expand sometime in the future to 5x daily prayer. This would be a big impact on Peace, but also would be a benefit financially. There would also be an opportunity to partner on community service projects with them, as other Lutheran congregations have done. For now we will see how the arrangement goes with just congregational prayer on Fridays.

**Fiona will follow up with Pastor Ronnie so he can notify the group, and arrange for a key.**

**CARRIED**

## 7. Old Business:

### a. Partnering with DARS

Pastor has been following up with them about using our kitchen for their cooking school. The original arrangement was to be on Friday afternoons but this arrangement will have to move to another weekday, if they choose to go forward, as it will conflict with the Muslim congregation.

## 8. Prayers for the People

Ronnie regularly shares names with the intercessors. Rosie recently spoke to Heddi. She is not yet ready to come to church on a weekly basis. She has reengaged with congregation members by phone to pray with them.

## 9. Correspondence – none

## 10. Reports:

- **Property (reported submitted by email-Tapio) (Liaison Mike)**
  - Elizabeth has arranged with Fernie Works to help with weeding the Peace Garden and flowerbeds along the north-east corner of the building. Jennifer Rowe has volunteered to water them at least once weekly.
  - Rainer Knabenschuh has joined the Veggie Garden team and will perform weeding and watering on Thursdays.
  - After the Church Council decision at the May CC meeting to no longer keep the two CP charity donation bins in the parking lot as CP4CP was no longer willing to pay PLC for the space. CP4CP was informed and they have been removed.
  - Tapio does not have an update on action to resolve the intermittent problem with the altar microphone cutting in and out.
  - Tapio has shelved until next year the project of obtaining quotations for replacement front doors with automatic door openers for fiscal reasons. **Discussion:** Fiona provided some background that the doors were meant to be part of the exterior refurbishment but that this did not occur. It was noted that installation of the new doors should be a high priority when we are in a better financial position. We have made the church partially accessible with the installation of the new ramp but not having an easily accessible entrance doesn't make sense.
  - The fellowship hall floor appears to need scrubbing, re waxing and buffing. In August, Tapio will obtain a quote from Task-Co then forward to Council for approval.
  - Jeremy and Tapio will be discussing the pros and cons of a suggestion by Pastor Ronnie to consider the installation of an EV charging station to raise income. Also, they will discuss the potential of installing solar panels, since both have up-front costs and would have significant impacts on the church's electrical room.
- **Worship & Arts: (Rosie/Fiona)**
  - No report this month. The next meeting date is June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mutual Ministry: (verbal report -Fiona)**
  - No report this month.
- **Congregational Life: (email report -Sirkka)**
  - Offerings from the Spring Concert have been directed to a special fund under Worship & Arts in support of PLC music programming.
- **Olive Branch (verbal report -Rosie)**

- Rosie will be delivering part 2 of her presentation this Sunday. Olive Branch is doing so many outreach programs that she will not be able to cover them all so Part 3 will be in September.
- **Pastor's Report**
  - **Pastoral Acts**
    - 2 funerals
  - **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.
    - Took 1 week of vacation, Bethan Riehle Johns was brought in for pulpit supply.
  - **Camp Lutherlyn Confirmation Camp.**
    - Held meetings, coordinated communications, registration between families and the camp.
    - Participated in planning sessions with Cam staff/other pastors.
    - At the end of June we will need to see how much funding has been accrued over the past year. Peace will have to make up the remainder of the costs if there are any. Stay tuned. **Discussion:** It was noted that the May financials show \$1450 in the fund.
  - **Durham Multifaith Community:**
    - Indigenous Canada Study is ongoing. We have had five people from Peace participate. Once this course is completed, I will look to facilitate the Study at the church. (Winter 2024)
    - Peace is participating in the June 24th Multifaith Prayer For Peace service at All Saints Anglican Church at 2pm.
  - **Peace Food Garden**
    - Costs were minimal this year, seedlings/seeds only. The ministry is self-funded by the participants.
  - **Rentals**
    - So far, the recitals have been a success. We have asked participants to bring items for the Food Bank and we have collected a good amount of food. It was great to tie in ministry to a rental. They seem very happy with the space and service so far. Hopefully this is the beginning of a long-term relationship.
  - **Communications**
    - Email, phone calls, zoom calls, texts, social media posts, visitations, newsletter/gratitude corner submission, review of Synodical and National church communications, etc.
  - **Office**
    - 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.
  - **Congregational Redevelopment Advisor**
    - In light of recent budgetary challenges, I reached out to Jennifer Hoover, the new Congregational Redevelopment Advisor for the ELCIC. She is also an ordained pastor.
    - I wanted to know when congregations should consider redevelopment and to seek her advice on the basics of the processes involved. She has agreed to be with us/lead a

service on September 24th. She will also host an information session with the congregation afterwards. She is also willing to meet with Council if requested.

- **Finance Team**

- No report this month

**11. Closing Prayer:** Analisa did the closing prayer.

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

Next Council Meeting – **Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm via hybrid Zoom & in person model.**