

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
on Wednesday July 19th, 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), Analisa Chand, David Wishart, and Pastor Ronnie Smith.

Regrets: Mike Balzer, Sirkka Taylor, Sunny Wishart (Treasurer)

Via Zoom: none

Guest: Bill Gregor

1. **Call to Order:** Jan called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.
2. **Opening:** Rosie did the opening devotion. Jan will do it for the next meeting.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:**
Moved by: Rosie, seconded by: David
THAT the agenda for Wednesday, July 19th, 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 June 15th, 2023, be approved.
Discussion: None. **CARRIED.**
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - As Sunny was not able to attend, she emailed the report in advance of the meeting and David offered to take any questions.
 - The report included revised May financials, June financials and the Q2 Financial Statement.
 - *Sunny advised by email she made the changes to the May Financial Statement to move the \$200 payment to Bethan for May 28 W&A to Guest Pastor.*

Moved by: Fiona, seconded by: Analisa

THAT the Q2 Financial Statement, be approved.

Discussion: After a discussion about the insurance, it was noted that the Q2 report should be amended to mention the expense for the Insurance premium and the costs for the new security system (from the Special Purpose Fund). It should mention that the hefty deficit is primarily related to the insurance payment, then it can be sent out by Pastor Ronnie to the congregation.

CARRIED

(Moved by: Rosie, seconded by: Fiona.

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

Discussion: A few typos to the text were noted. David will bring these to Sunny's attention.

CARRIED)

** It was determined after the meeting that the wrong report was sent. This item will be reconsidered at the next meeting and the correct June Financials will be approved.*

6. New Business:

a. Insurance Coverage Review – Bill

- Bill submitted a written report with highlights and limits set in our policy. It was noted that the contract was signed and the premium was paid. Bill answered questions from the Council members.
- Highlights: The annual premium has increased 13% - an 8% rate increase and 5% value increase. Next year he anticipates another 10% increase.
- David asked how the valuation for the property is made.
- The building was independently evaluated in 2015 on a square foot basis. Last year Bill compared ours to the local Anglican Church, also on a square foot basis. In 2023-2024 Bill increased it by 5%, which was used by the insurance company.
- David asked about the payout to rebuild if needed. Due to the co-pay condition, we will be 17% short if the building is totally destroyed (a very unlikely situation). Payout limits are separate for building and contents. Building: \$2,094,750 Contents: \$160K.
- Rosie asked about water damage coverage – she noted our deductible this year is \$10,000. Bill mentioned that insurance companies are trying very hard to reduce their payouts for water damage and different types of water damage (flood, sewer back up, etc.) are now categorized differently. Some events related to a lack of regular maintenance are no longer covered.
- New this year is coverage for the Stained-glass. Bill mentioned this was valued at \$32K, with a separate limit of \$35,000.
- David asked about expectations for future building maintenance.
- The company is now setting a lifetime replacement with no depreciation limit on roof coverage of 25 years. Roofs older than 25 years will be subject to depreciation, basically little or no value. Our roof is set to reach that limit in 2033, when it will need to be replaced to protect our coverage. That is likely to be a large sum. Council will need to strategize about fund raising for that and other large maintenance items, for example, the deteriorating parking lot. Property is asked to get a current estimate for planning purposes.

b. Website builder options for our webpage overhaul – David

- David has looked at a number of options for overhauling and updating our website. We need a refresh in our online presence. People who are looking for churches need a positive on-line experience as they will look first online.
- They vary in cost and some are cheaper and offer generic services and others are more expensive and are purpose built for churches.
- Features include: running videos, events calendars, online/digital giving, mobile apps
- Over the past 6 years the website has undergone two iterations. Currently we have a website url from GoDaddy and we changed to a complicated WordPress operating system.
- Ina, who maintains our current website, is supportive of upgrading but David hasn't been able to connect with her. She finds it cumbersome.

- David will do more research to determine the financial impact and benefits to help Council make a decision about which option to go with.
 - We do need a dedicated person as content manager. Pastor Ronnie will consider if there are youth or new members who might have the skills and willingness to do this.
- c. Formal Acknowledgement of New Members and Transfers (Jan)**
- Someone mentioned that new members from Christ the King and others should be acknowledged in a special service in September. There might be a liturgy in the red book.
 - Analisa suggested during the service we ask people to self-identify as visitors so members would know and, if inclined, might help welcome them at coffee time.
- d. Updating our Rental Fees**
- Ronnie circulated an email about raising rental rates.
 - New renters are now paying \$100 for parking. The current fee is \$70. Council felt everyone should pay the same. We should implement the increase starting in September.
 - There are separate fees for groups renting more than 10 spaces. The dental office across the street is renting 16 spots for \$535/mo. Pastor Ronnie suggested an increase to \$800/mo.
 - This income needs to be applied to address the deteriorating parking lot.
 - Ronnie will speak to the Tim Horton's manager. They cancelled their rentals last year but there is a new manager who may not know it's an option.
 - As for other room rental rates, Tapio will be consulted as he worked on the last round of rental increases with Kateryna and Pastor Ronnie will come back with recommendations
- e. Telus Security Contact Names**
- Rosie has discovered that the Telus contact list is out of date. Telus informed her she is not authorized to make changes to the list. Pastor Ronnie will follow up with Jeremy and add names of people who are willing and able to attend at the church when alarms go off.

7. Old Business:

- a. Growing Together in Peace, PLC 2023/2024 Growth Strategy**
- Members are asked to revisit the report David submitted last month to see which initiative each Council member could lead or take part in.
 - Pastor Ronnie identified the Youth Group and the podcasts.
 - David referred to the internship program – provided by the federal government website and hopefully funded by the synod grant program. Pastor Ronnie says the church could use someone 8-12 hrs a week on communication & website maintenance.
- b. Partnering with DARS**
- DARS did get back in touch last month. The ball is in their court to provide their requests. Given we have a new rental on Fridays Pastor Ronnie will have to negotiate with them for available times for their activities.

8. Prayers for the People

Pastor Ronnie regularly shares names with the intercessors.

9. Correspondence

Jan received a nice thank you from CLWR for donations we sent.

10. Reports:

- **Property (reported submitted by email-Tapio) (Liaison Mike)**
 - Tapio has completed weeding and spreading of mulch on the north east flowerbeds and on the Peace Garden plus trimming the bushes.

- Tapio has reviewed the 2023-2034 Cherry Property Insurance policy. He is comfortable with the renewal as is.

- **Worship & Arts: (Rosie/Fiona)**
 - The last meeting was held June 28th.
 - The use of Name Tags and Offering plates were discussed and resolved. Name Tag Sunday will go ahead, but there needs to be some preparation of new name tags and reassigning mailboxes. Pastor Ronnie will need help with these. The AMs will make an announcement each week advising parishioners the options for giving. Pastor Ronnie will write the message so we are delivering a consistent message.
 - Rosie will follow up with Pastor Ronnie about introducing these items.
- **Mutual Ministry: (verbal report -Fiona)**
 - No report this month.
- **Congregational Life: (email report -Sirkka)**
 - Sundaes Sunday/Sauer Sunday is coming up in August.
- **Olive Branch (verbal report -Rosie)**
 - Rosie reported we haven't reached 50% of our budget yet, despite the presentations and fund-raising appeal. Jan has an idea and will follow up with Rosie.
- **Pastor's Report**
 - Pastor Ronnie is away August 20th, 27th. Pastor will arrange for Pastoral emergency coverage for his absence and inform Rosie for the August newsletter. Lay services will be performed by Rosie and Giselle those weeks.
- **Pastoral Acts**
 - No report this month
- **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**
 - Took 6 kids and 1 dog to camp July 9-14. Everyone had a great time. The kids baked communion bread for church on Sunday, offered up a reflection on their experience and lead the congregation through some of the songs we learned at camp. We eagerly await camp next year and hopefully we can get more kids to come.
- **Youth Group**
 - Our campers had such a great time with each other they want to start a youth group. We will look for opportunities to get together over the summer but will start planning/organizing in the September.
- **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)

- Represented Peace at the June 24th Multifaith Prayer For Peace service at All Saints Anglican Church. It was a really great service and a great networking opportunity with local faith leaders.
- **Peace Food Garden**
 - Due to excellent volunteer participation and the grace of God our gardens are growing very well. Modest produce distribution has already begun.
 - Volunteers have been helping water the Memorial Garden as well. We should look to join the two areas into one Gardening Team in the future.
- **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: Rosie did the closing prayer.

12. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

Next Council Meeting – **Thursday, September 21st, 7:00 pm via hybrid Zoom & in person model.**