

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
on Thursday October 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), Mike Balzer, Analisa Chand, Sirkka Taylor, David Wishart, and Pastor Ronnie Smith.

Via Zoom: Sunny Wishart (Treasurer) **Regrets:** None **Guest:** None

1. **Call to Order:** Rosie called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. **Opening:** Mike did the opening devotion. Sirkka will do it for the next meeting.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:**
Moved by: Mike, seconded by: Jan
THAT the agenda for Thursday, October 19th, 2023, be approved.
Discussion: None. **CARRIED**
4. **Approval of the Previous Minutes:**
Moved by: Jan seconded by: Sirkka
THAT the Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on September 14th, 2023, as amended, be approved. **Discussion:** The weekday of the meeting in the title needs to be corrected. David mentioned that we need to clarify that the motion under 7(d) will be to add the \$2400 amount for Tithely to the existing \$600 budget item for website development (Office & General Administration). **CARRIED.**
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - Sunny emailed the reports in advance of the meeting.
 - Cheques have been issued for the 3rd quarter as below, look at the Olive Branch!
 - CLWR: \$150
 - Olive Branch: \$2,519
 - St. Paul's on the Hill Food Bank: \$150
 - Recommending that we open a new Dedicated Funds for DARS as we expand fundraising efforts.

Moved by: Mike, seconded by: Sirkka
THAT the September Financial Statements, the Q3 Report and Treasurer's Report, be approved.
Discussion: Pastor Ronnie will distribute the Q3 Report to the congregation. **CARRIED.**

Moved by: Fiona, seconded by: Jan
THAT a line item be added in the Financials in Dedicated Funds for DARS. **Discussion:** Reporting on this new fund will be quarterly along with the other Dedicated Funds. **CARRIED.**

6. New Business:

a. Veggie Garden (Jan)

- Jan is preparing an application to the city of Pickering for a Community Grant to help offset costs for our Veggie Garden expansion. The deadline is October 27th. She needs to send the City a copy of the motion in the Council minutes approving the application request at this Council meeting (Thursday October 19th). She distributed the details included in the application to the Council by email prior to the meeting.

Moved by: Analisa Chand, seconded by: Mike Balzer

THAT Jan van der Wees is approved to submit the application for the Community Grant for the Veggie Garden expansion to the City of Pickering on behalf of Peace Lutheran Church. CARRIED.

Discussion:

- I have taken Pastor Ronnie's advice and "dared to dream big" and here are my results. All the prices I have listed include sales tax,
- SOIL COSTS - Yard Depot here in Pickering is a great company to deal with and they will give us a discount but I don't know how much. We will need six yards of Triple Mix costing \$418.10
- LUMBER COSTS - 4 lower beds \$88.14 each - total for 4 \$352.56 1 raised bed 4 boards high - \$528.84. All prices are for cedar boards from Rona and nothing is on sale right now.
- COST OF SCREWS - \$56.00
- CAGES - 16 cages for tomato plants and cucumbers \$4.51 X 16 = \$72.16
- MANURE - 20 bags - \$6.54 X 20 = \$130.80
- GARDEN HOSE - Flexon Supreme Duty Black Vinyl Garden Hose - 100ft. by 5/8" - \$90.39. I thought depending on where we build the new beds we may need a longer garden hose.
- TOTAL COST \$1,648.85.

- All of my estimates come from Rona's web site. They are a Canadian company and seemed to have the best prices however, nothing is on sale this time of year.
- The grant from the city of Pickering is up to a maximum of \$3,000.00 so we are still under the maximum amount. I am debating whether I should ask for \$100.00 for plants or tell the city the members of the "team" usually chip in to buy the necessary plants.

b. Allocating a Fund for DARS

- This item was covered under the Treasurer's Report.

c. New Financial Secretary -Steven Kanavalli (Jan)

Moved by: Jan, seconded by: Analisa

THAT Council appoint Steve Kanavalli as Financial Secretary to replace Joan Ruhnke.

Discussion: Steven volunteered to take on this role and he has met several times with the Ruhnkes, who are very happy with his skill set and enthusiasm.

CARRIED.

d. New Finance Team Chair – to be appointed

- No one from the Finance Team has agreed to take on this role.
- Council discussed different strategies to address this issue. David will incorporate this role as part of his appeal for volunteers in his presentation on October 29th.

e. Food Truck Proposal

- The owners need to work out some details. Pastor Ronnie also needs to do further research. We will revisit this next month.

f. Rental Opportunities

- Sunday evenings & Tuesdays are currently available for new rentals.
- Pastor Ronnie is considering a request from DARS for another night to feed the homeless. There is also a suggestion that we could host them for a warming centre during specific weather conditions. Pastor Ronnie will ask for a detailed proposal from DARS.
- The Muslim Group is looking for a location to hold 5x daily prayer services. Pastor Ronnie will explore the financial opportunity cost of this.

g. 2024 Budget – (Jan)

- Jan met with Bill Gregor who is preparing the 2024 budget. He has advised that the Benefits amounts will not be available until November, therefore the budget will not be completed until then. Jan will ask Bill if he can present it on November 30th.

h. Advent Dinner (Rosie)

- A planning meeting was held October 19th. The Advent Potluck for everyone will be held November 26th after the Worship Service. There will be a sign-up sheet for dishes, a set-up crew and a clean-up crew. The theme will be Making a Difference. During the Worship Service Margaret from DARS will provide background on DARS in lieu of a sermon. Donations of items for the homeless will be encouraged. There will be a short devotional and hymns during the potluck.

7. Old Business:

a. New Mobile App / Tithe.ly (David)

- The onboarding process has begun with help from the company. We may be replacing Powerchurch with the Church Management Software module in Tithe.ly. David suggested a launch “party” for the implementation when it is set to go live.
- Tithe.ly work with over 37K churches and can help us with best practices for successful churches.

b. Riipen Level Up – (David)

- Government funded program to apply for coop placement.
- David has put together a list of tasks/jobs that need to be done and included in the job description of any incoming coop people.
- This will likely take months to know if we can get the funds.
- We also need to keep in mind that a Synod Grant might also be available.
- David is well into preparing the presentation on these initiatives on Oct 29th.

c. Revised Form for Counters

- Rosie reported that the new form is available.
- Mike offered to program the form into a digital document in Google Sheets to tally the numbers. This will streamline the work and facilitate distribution as needed.

8. Correspondence

No correspondence this month.

9. Reports:

- **Olive Branch (verbal report -Rosie)**
 - Rosie reported we have now sent \$4000 to support our girls. This was a great response to the presentations Rosie did this year.
- **Property (reported submitted by email-Tapio) (Liaison Mike)**
 - In mid-September, Task-Co performed rewaxing of the basement tile floors at a cost of \$720 plus HST and machine cleaning of all the carpeting on the main floor at a cost of \$600 plus HST.
 - To address the wax on the Sanctuary carpeting especially near the pulpit, Task-Co has provided quotation to remove the wax and machine carpet clean these areas at cost of \$530 plus HST. Tapio recommends before proceeding with this quotation, first seek one or two volunteers to perform this wax removal.
 - Tapio has replaced the ceiling insulation in the Fellowship table storage room. It was removed to identify the source of the leak in August. The leak was fixed by sealing the cracks in front of the Old Narthex entrance.
 - Tapio replaced a defective ballast and 4 fluorescent light bulbs in the Winter Janusc room which is now used by DARS for interviews with clients.
 - On Sat, Oct. 21st, Phil Plath with the help of Rainer, Phil W Sr and Tapio will trim hanging dead branches from the large poplar tree at the west driveway ramp. The group will load the branches onto Phil's trailer and take them to the dump.
 - Fall Clean-up Day has been rescheduled rain or shine to Saturday, November 4th, 9-noon. Task lists have been placed in the Narthex.
 - No progress has been made on obtaining parking lot repaving and line painting quotations.
 - Tapio will be preparing the 2024 property budget to submit to Bill G.
 - Herbert Williams will be scheduled to perform annual fire alarm system inspection and testing. This year's quotation for the service is unchanged from last year.
- **Worship & Arts: (verbal report Fiona/Pastor)**
 - The last meeting was held September 13th.
 - Carol and Ann are working on the Name Tags to go into effect October 29th. Updates to the Mailbox List will follow. The first Sunday of each month we will repeat name tags Sundays.
 - All Saints Sunday is coming soon. Pastor Ronnie bought candles and Rosie will put a reminder to bring photos of family members to church that day.
- **Mutual Ministry: (verbal report -Fiona)**
 - It is time to start 2024 budget numbers for Pastor's 2024 compensation.
- **Congregational Life: (email report -Sirikka)**
 - Assisted with the reception on October 1st, at Jan Whalen Funeral. Jan's husband gave a generous contribution for helping. The funds have been applied to the Congregational Life account.

- Travelling dinner was held on October 7th. Nineteen people participated.
- Reformation Sunday is October 29th. We will have a cake and welcome new members.
- A bake sale/craft sale is scheduled for December 3rd. We are proposing that the money made from the bake sale go to the discretionary fund for Pastors walk-ins requiring help.
- January (no date yet) a chili pot luck.
- February 13th, Shrove Tuesday Pancakes
- March 31st, Easter Breakfast (no coffee hour after service)
- April, maybe Deb McCracken will come from Tanzania??
- May, maybe an afternoon concert again
- Sirkka would like to start holding monthly Soup/Salad lunches for Seniors with guest speakers.
- **Pastor's Report**
 - **Youth Group:**
 - Youth group sleep over will be held on Saturday October 21st. The group currently consists of 7 youth. We will be planning monthly events. November we will get together to set up Christmas lights for the Advent/Christmas season.
 - **Congregational Redevelopment Advisor:**
 - It was great to have Jennifer Hoover meet with us. Her presentation was well received. To continue to build a relationship with Peace she would like to follow up with a meeting with Council in the new year.
 - **DARS:**
 - DARS has officially moved in. They are so grateful for the space we've provided. It has been great to see so many from Peace want to support them. I look forward to collaborating with them more and more moving forward. The Thursday evening dinners are going well so far.
 - **Renters:**
 - Long and McQuade has been booked in for two Saturday's in January with a possible third date being added February 3rd. They have agreed to the new rental rates and have offered to have our piano tuned ahead of the recitals. The rental income is great but it is also a great way to get hundreds of people into our building.
 - **Indigenous Canada Study/Elcic – Circle For Reconciliation**
 - We continue our journey with the Durham Multifaith Community through the Indigenous Canada Study. There are 2 of 12 sessions remaining.
 - I have met with the Eastern Synod's Circle For Reconciliation to offer to facilitate the course in 2024 as an education event for the wider church starting January 16th (third Tuesday of every month). We will be leaning into our synodical and national networks to promote participation across the country.
 - **St. Martin's Anglican Church**
 - I've met with Rev. Shelly Pollard to discuss ways in which our churches can work together in the future. We have committed to meeting once a month to develop a relationship between our congregations. Stay tuned.
 - **Mayor Kevin Ashe:**
 - Our new mayor is reaching out to faith groups in Pickering with the aim of getting to know the people and the needs in our community. Mayor Ashe will be attending our November council meeting to see how the city can assist our ministry.

- **Rafael Rodriguez - Director of Public Policy and Service Ministries.**
 - He has recently been appointed and Pastor Ronnie has invited him to visit us to address us on the vision they have for the church.
- **Veggie Garden Team:**
 - We met last Sunday to make plans to close the beds for the season. We'll be meeting after church on Sunday to do the work. Janet is seeking funding through city grants to help us expand the gardens to better serve food insecurity in our community.
- **Tech Team:**
 - Preparing a grant application to help us procure funding for a new mixing board in our tech booth. I had APEX in for a consultation and a quote. To be continued.
- **Carols By Candlelight:**
 - The Music Team will begin rehearsing for Carols By Candlelight in November. I'm proposing Saturday, December 16th as the date for the event.
- **Jan Whalen Funeral:**
 - Met with family, planned and prepared the service at Peace. Executed the event with the help of Congregational Life who supported the reception afterwards.
- **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.
- **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.
- **YOUTUBE STATISTICS:**
 - Views: 1,932
 - Watch Time: 171.1 hours
 - Subscribers: 293 (+5)
 - Videos/Live Streams: 20
 - * The bump in views/watch time can be largely attributed to uploading our Children's Messages as stand-alone content.
- **FACEBOOK STATISTICS:**
 - Reach: 424
 - Visits: 323
 - Likes: 566 (9 new)
 - Posts: 12

- **Finance Team**

- No report this month.

10. Closing Prayer: Mike did the closing prayer.

11. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Next Council Meeting – **Thursday, November 16th, 2023, 7:00 pm via hybrid Zoom & in person model.**