

**Faith Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2019**

Meeting called to order: 7 p.m.

Attendees: Pastor Jean, Pastor Rick, Dave Weida, Bob Manning, Heather Popio, Norma Setteur, Dana Singer, Ken Messick, Art Kaufman, Linda Weidrick, Lorelee Daily, Derek Daily, Adam Ashenfelter, Nancy Tobar, John Weisend

Excused: Judy Lee, Gabe Hyter

Review of the Minutes – Not available. Will review at April meeting.

Staff Reports

- Treasurer: none submitted.
- Pastor Jean Hansen – report attached. Noted that March 20 is next Interfaith Justice Series service and discussion at Temple Israel. All encouraged to attend.
- Pastor Rick Gordon - report attached. He noted his conversation with a member about welcoming people from the LGBT community to attend worship. He mentioned to them our Reconciling in Christ efforts. They were relieved.
- Bob Manning. – the Outreach Ministry continues to gain momentum, enthusiasm and support from the congregation. During the month of February, 33 volunteers served at Holy Trinity; our congregation and preschool families donated many needed items for the DLM Food and Resource Ministry. In March we are collecting items for Lutheran World Relief; Marilyn Wilson gave a Temple Talk update on the Thailand Mission that we support; our Interfaith Justice Series (IFJ) continues and we are serving lunch to the community at OPEN M with our IFJ partners. The month ends with Faith members serving at the DLM Food Bank at Holy Trinity. Bob will present an outreach update to the congregation on April 7.

Bob completed a study of where our monetary donations for outreach have been going the last three years. He found that most of our donated funds go to support OASIS and the Thailand Mission trip, after the mission support (benevolence) contribution to the NE Ohio Synod.

Faith has not budgeted for outreach for a long time and we need to decide how we fund outreach efforts going forward. In 2019, the new outreach effort was supported by a grant from the SJ/SP Endowment.

President's Report - nothing discussed.

Old Business

- Bequest from the estate of George F. Eckert: no new information to discuss.

- Triad update. The Communications Team is meeting March 28, to review two options for the new website. The communication plan that was drafted is also being reviewed. Rollout of the new website could be within the next 60-90 days.
- RIC Core Team formation update - Tom Antal, Karl Demuth, Joe Gardner, Kit Scheetz, Sandy Selby, Linda Weigand and Marilyn Wilson were asked to serve on the RIC Core Team. Pastor Jean reported that all agreed to serve except Marilyn Wilson who is unable to participate due to prior commitments but is supportive. The next step will be to meet and decide a chair for the team. Pastor Jean mapped out a timeline for the team.
- Greeters-Between-the-Services update – Pastor Jean reported that we have 10 people willing to serve as greeters and will they will begin in April. Each Sunday from 10:15 to 11 a.m. there will be a greeter in the Welcome Center, with a nametag, to welcome people, especially newcomers, assist people to find their way and introduce them to others.

Pastor Jean updated all on the state of the current website. It had been inactive for a couple of weeks. Gabe updated the site so that it could be used, however the update knocked out the ability to send the prayer list and weekly e-news through the website. Pastor Jean is sending out the prayers and weekly updates through Outlook.

New Business

- Operating Account Analysis – John Weisend

John reviewed several budget structural changes that have taken place. “Building and Grounds” has moved to the Operating budget. The SJ/SP Endowment Grant for Outreach, received in 2018, is being used toward Outreach Ministry in 2019. That money was put into prepay, a new way of doing it, so that it matches revenues to expenses. John proposes a third change, and that is to record payment of (unbudgeted) expenses, that have been approved by Council, in the appropriate budget line. We’ve been in the habit of transferring such payments directly from savings and the expense loses visibility, making it difficult to track how money was being spent.

We need to keep our revenue in mind for future planning. It is estimated to be down about 2% next year. Pastor Jean sees challenges ahead in the congregation. The number of long-time, active members is declining due to moves, deaths and decisions to attend worship elsewhere; this affects income. New members are joining but are not as active in terms of worship attendance or making contributions as those long-time members. This is a trend that will most likely continue.

We need to be proactive; one of the ways of doing so is with our outreach program and our website redesign/communications plan. These are ways to interest people in our Faith community.

Having money available for (new) staffing in 2020 comes down to revenue, John W. noted. The mortgage is paid off, we have money in the bank and assuming no major building expenses, we just need to be cautious. Pastor Jean noted that calling a pastor or deacon is unlikely due to the cost of the benefits. She said our priority is keeping the

outreach ministry going; it's important to fund that position. At the next Council meeting we will discuss forming a Task Force on staffing.

Adam Ashenfelter proposed that we accept the accounting change to record payment of non-budgeted expenses in the appropriate budget line/area. Dana seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- Maundy Thursday stripping of the altar – 7 p.m., April 18
Council members are needed to strip the altar. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Ministry Area Reports

- Care and Nurture: *Dana Singer, Heather Popio*
- Communications: *Gabe Hyter, Dave Weida*
- Endowment: *Loralee Daily*
- Growth and Learning: *Adam Ashenfelter*
Jim Horvath inquired if Council had any interest in holding a flag retirement ceremony. We would publicize it here at Faith. Dana mentioned advertising in West Side Leader. Art noted that we should invite veterans from the congregation and the community.
- Ministry/Staff Development: *Derek Daily*
- Operations: *Art Kaufman, Loralee Daily*
Art reported that Judy Vernon is looking into remodeling the main kitchen. The Property Team is also replacing the windows in the Fellowship Hall hallway. Loralee contacted the leaders of the groups to which she is council liaison. There have been two interments in the Memorial Courtyard.
- Outreach: *Bob Manning*
- Preschool: *Norma Setteur*
Dewey's Pizza Night Fundraiser is planned. PJ Parties are also fundraisers and 27 boys and girls participated at the last one. Pastor Jean noted that because of recent shooting near the Woodland Preschool, several families have pulled their children from that preschool and enrolled them at Faith. Our prayers go out to the Woodland staff and their preschool families.
- Worship: *Linda Weidrick, Ken Messick*
We welcomed Ken Messick who has returned following surgery.

Motion to adjourn made by Norma Setteur and seconded by Heather Popio

The Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned: 8:35 pm.

Next Meeting: 7 p.m., April 15