

**Christ Lutheran Church
Congregational Council
Minutes
June 12, 2017**

Pastor Florio	✓ Jim Ingraham	✓ Bill Mottett
✓ Cathleen Jacobson	✓ Mat Lewis	Sandra Bocclair Absent
✓ Darren D'Ateno	Jim Schnellenberger	✓ Carol Jones
✓ Lucas Cochran		
Non-voting:	Paul Quel	Nancy LaVier
Guests: Pastor James Kniseley		

✓ Approved minutes

Call to Order (Jim I) at 7:00 p.m.
There were 8 voting members present.

Devotions (Bill) A scripture from Job

Congregation Comments – No comments

Review of Minutes (May)- approved electronically

Financial Report (Paul) – Despite lower expenses, we were still \$11,000 in the red at the end of May, primarily due to less-than-expected offerings. Year-to-Date offerings are running about 82% percent of budget.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Florio) – Three deaths last month was very unusual. The church team was excellent, extremely supportive and compassionate.

President's Report – Jim S. and Jim I met with Pastor Kniseley, who was recommended by the bishop's office to serve as our interim pastor. Jim I thanked the visiting pastors for serving the church.

Jim I. met with Pastor David of Casa De Dios. Their congregation is growing and Pastor David requested that the sanctuary be available for their use on Sunday afternoons. They will still be using the fellowship hall and classrooms on Thursday evenings, and every second Saturday for their Bible study (Virginia Bible Law University).

Ministry Updates

Faith Formation- Jim I. is working with Pastor Ruggles to continue the adult faith formation sessions on Sundays. Jim distributed the schedule with who would lead the

remaining Sunday morning sessions. Adam Zimmerli and Carol Jones are the new web masters for the church web site. Jim I. has also begun to construct a new job description for our music director since the current description is out of date. Bundle of Joy used the facility to conduct their “graduation” ceremony which went very well. Jim I. announced that he will be gone most of the summer. (July 14- August 25)

- Finance- Paul already reported.
- Stewardship- no report.
- Evangelism- no report.
- IT/ Communications – Carol reported that Jim S. dropped some cable to the basement to get Wi-Fi to have internet in the youth meeting area.
- Property- most of the tree debris from the fallen trees has been removed. Much has been cut up and is no longer a danger to anyone. An electrician is needed to repair part of the building in the classroom area, and the exit lights function.
- Vision – Jim S. has been working on the long term and strategic plan based on the congregation surveys and the retreat. Both the vision and budget should be done about the same time. Jim S. mentioned that the church needs a new mission statement based on current realities.

New Business

- Council Nominations – The congregation has not put forth any names yet.
- Summer Schedule- beginning on July 2nd there will be one worship service at 9:30. After Labor Day in September, services will revert to our traditional two services each Sunday.
- Congregational Meeting: Oct 1 Jim made a motion to propose the congregational meeting for Oct. 1st to approve the budget and to have a meeting to elect the members of council. The newly elected council members will start as observers and then become active members in January. The motion was seconded –there was no discussion - motion carried. Y=8, N=0
- Jim I. made a motion to make Carol Jones and Adam Zimmerli to be the new web-masters. The motion was seconded and carried. Y=8, N=0.
- Updated Casa de Dios Agreement - Jim I. made a motion to approve the updated agreement with Casa de Dios –the motion was seconded – some discussion followed noting the contributions made by their congregation both monetarily and their willingness to help maintain the facility. The new agreement permits Casa to use our Sanctuary for their Sunday worship and stipulates they take proper care of all altar vestments, candles and other elements of Lutheran worship. - motion carried. Y=8. N=0.
- Interim Pastor – In response to a request approved by Council at our May meeting, The Bishop recommended Pastor James Kniseley as a good fit for an interim pastor at Christ Lutheran. Jim S. and Jim I. had a formal discussion with

Pastor Kniseley and recommend that Pastor Kniseley to be our interim pastor. In addition to experience serving as an interim pastor, he also had formal training in interim ministry.

Pastor Kniseley spoke about his experience and interest in being an interim pastor to Christ Lutheran.

Matt requested an explanation of the 3/4 work schedule. It was explained that the schedule is based on blocks of time; Sunday mornings, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturday mornings, and Mondays on Council meeting days.

The agreement with Pastor Kniseley is from July 1, 2017 – June 30th. 2018. Most the responsibilities in the agreement come from the church constitution, and the salary (75% of the previous minister's salary) is based on the guidelines provided by the synod. The format and general terms for the agreement are from the synod web site.

Cathleen raised a question about continuity for confirmation class if the agreement is only for one year. Pastor Kniseley suggested that having another adult help would provide that. He discussed the term intentional interim and explained that he has been trained to help the church find its mission and vision. He also suggested formation of a transition team to help determine what the call committee should be looking for in a new permanent minister.

The constitution (§9.06) provides for an interim pastor to be appointed by the bishop with the consent of the congregation or the church council. Jim I. explained that for our current purposes, the council should offer it's consent to this appointment.

Jim I. made a motion to offer the interim agreement and proposal to Pastor Kniseley. The motion was seconded. A lengthy and prayerful discussion followed. Jim I. requested each council member, to comment and make their opinion heard. Jim S. spoke highly of him as well as Matt Lewis. Pastor Florio also was very positive and having an intentional interim is to the church's advantage because he is well trained. At the conclusion of the discussion a vote was taken. Jim I. asked that the vote be based on a show of hands.

On the motion to consent to the appointment of Rev. James Kinseley as the Interim Pastor of Christ Lutheran under the terms of the proposed Interim Pastor Agreement:

Yeas (7): *Cochran, D'Ateno, Ingraham, Jones, Lewis, Mottet, Schnellenberger*

Nay (0): None.

Abstain (1): *Jacobson*

Absent (1): *Boclair*

Motion carried.

Jim I. will offer the agreement for signature to Pastor James Kniseley. The agreement must be approved by the Bishop before the appointment can be made official.

Pastor Kniseley will be installed by Pastor Florio during the September 3 service.

Upcoming Events

- Doorkeepers (Open: Close: Darren)
- Devotions (Lucas)
- Next Council Meeting: July 10

Closing Comments for the Good of the Church

Pastor Florio thanked the council and congregation for the positive relationship and experience with Christ Lutheran Church.

Members of council thanked Pastor Florio and Pastor Kniseley for their concern, care and contribution to Christ Lutheran Church.

Carol reminded everyone that quilting will continue Saturdays when announced in the bulletin, throughout the summer.

Jim S. talked about the synod meeting and the need for mercy in a chaotic world.

He also thanked Paul for work on the grounds and tree removal.

Bob Humphrey is the new bishop.

Jim I also thanked Pastor Florio for his help and Pastor Kniseley for being our interim and praised Pastor David and the growth of Casa De Dios.

Pastor Kniseley was very complimentary of the graciousness of the council and the beauty of the sanctuary.

Pastor Florio ended the meeting with prayer.