

**Christ Lutheran Church
Congregational Council
Minutes
July 10, 2017**

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

✓ Minutes approved

Call to Order (Jim I) Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
There were nine voting members present (quorum).

Devotions- Lucas offered an opening prayer.

ELCA Forwarding Faith Presentation (Stephanie Hammett) – The presenter was not in attendance. However, Jim I explained we still needed a volunteer to lead and coordinate the Forwarding Faith campaign for CLC. Lucas volunteered to assume this responsibility.

Congregation Comments – No Congregates were present.

Review of Minutes (June) – approved electronically

Financial Report (Paul)- We finished the mid-year with an over \$11,000.00 deficit. Even when factoring in the remainder of the one-time offerings we had a deficit of \$4,000.00. Our expenses were \$21,000.00 under budget but offerings, even though \$30,000 above the pledge, were \$33,000.00 off from the budget. Keep in mind that these first six months contain two months with substantially reduced salary expense. This will not be the case starting in July so we can expect the second half of the year, particularly during the summer doldrums, to be difficult financially. Jim S. volunteered to draft a letter of thanks for the met pledges and encouragement to the congregation to continue their support.

Pastor's Report (Pastor) Pastor Kniseley is working on a timeline for the transition and is currently determining how things are working at Christ Lutheran. This will include a

purposeful period of several months to make no significant changes and allow him to see how Christ Lutheran operates. The Council and I will be identifying folks to be the Transition Team. This team will be made up of 6-8 individuals to be tasked with working on matters related to calling the next settled pastor. A key goal is to take the heavy load off of the Council. They will be designing the outline of what the church needs and how to get there. A typical transition period can reasonably be expected to take 18-24 months.

Pastor will be addressing this month the Sunday School/Confirmation/Youth Group/Village Nights activities.

Council and Pastor will work as a team. He will never do anything which the council does not approve.

Upcoming dates for consideration:

- September 3 - Interim Pastor Installation/Pastor Florio preaching and installing
- September 9 – Installation of Bishop Humphrey, Waynesboro
- September 10 – Return to two worship services
- October ? - Pastor will travel to San Diego for granddaughter's recognition
- November 1- Conference Reformation 500 Festival Worship at Epiphany
- November 9-15 Pastor will go to Sequoia for his wife's birthday celebration
- November 21 – Thanksgiving Worship
- November 26- Advent I
- December 24- A Sunday. So how many worship services?
- December 31- One or two services?

Jim I made a motion to have 3 services on December 24, one at 9:30 am and at 5:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Also to have one service January 1 at 9:30 am. Both schedules subject to input from the Worship Planning Team. The motion was seconded and was carried. Y=9, N=0

President's Report – Jim wants to try to increase our outreach ministry. The name of the bereavement committee should be changed to something more positive, such as Hospitality Team. The children' library is still an open issue. Lucas volunteered to look into what it would take to turn this room into a usable area designed for kids in the 2-6 age range and report his findings to council at the August meeting. A "Designated Survivor" for the week of July 23rd needs to be made. Four members of council, including the President and VP, will be absent and there needs to be a lead council member in place in the highly unlikely event an urgent matter arises requiring council's immediate attention. Cathleen J made a motion and it was seconded that Darren be the council representative for the week of the 23rd. The motion carried. Y=9; N=0.

Jim I made a motion to extend thanks to Pastors Donna Ruggles, Elizabeth Yates, Ruth Fortis, Kim Triplett and David Delaney for serving Christ Lutheran as visiting pastors. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Y=9, N=0.

Ministry Updates

- Faith Formation- nothing new (Diane Ransone, Nikki Proffett ,Vanessa Baltor, David Ingraham, Jennifer John are or have been members) Jennifer is the driving force behind Village Night. Jim S also volunteered to be on the faith formation committee.
- Finance- See Paul's report above.
- Stewardship- no report – Plan to meet with Pastor Kniseley in September.
- Evangelism- planning for the National Night Out – games, ice cream, popcorn etc. first Tuesday of August – August 1. The ESL planning is going well. Carol has applied for a Thrivent grant and she and Betty are working to recruit some teachers and offer some tips and techniques and lining up tutors to help the slower students once the program begins. There will be an evaluation at the end of the program to determine the growth of the group and also build relationships with participants by staging several social activities. The Lutheran blood drive will be in October (Oct 7). This is part of a year-long campaign by Richmond area Lutheran churches to collect 500 pints of blood in recognition of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The youth would like to use the event as a platform for some type of fundraising activity to raise funds for the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. It was also suggested that it could also be part of a 60th celebration of CLC that weekend.
- IT/ Communications – Wi-fi signal is being improved for the basement area by Jim S. Adam Zimmerli has redesigned our website to make it more functional and more appealing for the young. Pastor Kniseley will be happy to post his sermons. Darren has been making Facebook postings frequently and was able to post the children's sermon. There will not be a newsletter for August but one is planned for September. A motion was made by Carol Jones to propose August 19th (rain date, 26th) for the youth to conduct a car wash to raise money for the trip to Houston. This motion was seconded and was carried. Y=9, N=0.
- Property-Jim S. volunteered to move some dirt to improve the drainage in the back of the church to divert water from the building. He also requested that materials be purchased and other volunteers solicited to create a permanent solution for the problem.
- Vision- The strategic plan contains some goals and objectives that were in progress, but under our current situation with the transition and the process of moving forward, our strategic plan implementation will be delayed. The Executive Committee will meet this week to assess the status of the plan.

New Business

- Council Nominations- Kayley Greenday has volunteered to be on council next year. Jim I has also asked that Sandra and Darren re-up for the council for next year. There are at least two other candidates under consideration, but they have not yet agreed to accept the call.
- Jim I. suggested that concerns about the nursery should be addressed. Jim S. suggested that the education supply room be locked. More monitoring is necessary. Lucas has volunteered to be the point person to assess this issue, including the feasibility of purchasing a more user-friendly vacuum, and report back to council in August with recommendations.

Upcoming Events

- Doorkeepers (Open and Close. Bill Mottet will switch with Jim I. and take August and Jim I will take September.
- Devotions – Pastor Kniseley
- Next Council Meeting: Wednesday August 16

Closing Comments for the Good of the Church

- Lift up the congregation for the transition and acceptance of Pastor Kniseley, and a Thank you for Pastor Kniseley for his sermons.
- lift up Linda for her time here and making sure there is music every Sunday and to keep her in your prayers for her family that is struggling.
- Paul is concerned the congregation may not fully understand the length of time (24 months) we are projecting for a call committee to be formed and to call a new permanent pastor. This time frame needs to be communicated better to our members.
- Jim S. shared his confidence in Pastor Kniseley and lift up our congregation to work toward the future and how much better we can be if we are deliberate and thoughtful and listen to the Holy Spirit.
- Lift up our congregation for their willingness to give of their musical talent to the church.
- Lift up Carol for doing all of the work on the ESL program.
- Jim I. wants to uplift the council and Pastor Kniseley for providing the congregation with a sense of confidence for the future.
- Jim I also wanted to lift up the volunteers for the wonderful classes that have been conducted after church. The classes have been excellent, covering a variety of topics coming from our diverse and talented congregation.

- Pastor would like to lift up Linda and her beautiful organ music, and the variety of music. This church is certainly worthy of wanting people to join.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.