

**Meeting Minutes  
CALLED COUNCIL MEETING  
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, RICHMOND, VA  
AUGUST 31, 2015**

Pr. Eric Moehring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heather Heckel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patty Franz	
Jim Ingraham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerald Ransone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Glen Kellogg <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Judy Garnett
Jim Schnellenberger <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Fleming	Faith Hobson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Absent:</b>	Jim Pickels		
<b>Non-voting:</b>	Diane Kellogg		
<b>Guests:</b>	Paul Quel	Kay Rilee	Luke Ramsey
	Bill Franz	Tinky Keen	

Indicates approval of the minutes

1. Scripture and Prayer – Led by Faith Hobson
2. Review of the “Ground Rules for Conversation” List of 9 topics
3. Reading of the proposals;:
  - a. Bill Franz proposed 2 resolutions
    - i. The first is that CLC offer pastoral care to all community members, without regard to race or sexual orientation.
    - ii. The second is that CLC will become a reconciling in Christ congregation
  - b. Pastor Moehring proposed a resolution
    - i. A Draft of a Statement on Pastoral Care Christ Lutheran Church Richmond, Virginia
4. Silence for Prayer
5. A look at “How Lutherans Interpret Scripture”—reviewed a document, some based on Dr. Michael Root’s ACTS class:
  - a. Prose or poetry?
  - b. Parable? For instance Judges 9, with talking trees
  - c. Folk or epic Story? Tower of Babel, Noah’s ark, Job, Jonah, creation stories. The Hebrews never saw these stories as factual, but consider when and how they were compiled
  - d. History? The histories in Kings and Chronicles don’t match 100% The sequences in the 4 gospels are not identical to each other, historically
  - e. Analogy? Do situations in biblical times match situations today?
  - f. Scripture in light of other scripture. Jesus said, “you have heard it said...but I tell you..”, told in light of Jesus’ new scripture. An eye for an eye, vs turn the other cheek.

- g. Some scripture is more important than others. Love of neighbor vs Balaam's conversation with his donkey; Lutheran Confession states that we interpret all scripture in light of the message of law and gospel.
  - h. The church has the responsibility to determine the extent to which biblical thinking applies today. For example, contraception vs procreation.
  - i. Keys to studying the bible
    - i. Not helpful to say "God says in the Bible"... however, all scripture is interpreted by us, better to say "What I understand the Bible to say in.."
    - ii. Our experience in our lives are a part of interpreting the bible.
    - iii. In studying the Bible, we need to remember it contains both the law and the gospel
    - iv. Never helpful to speak of the Old Testament vs New Testament
  - j. Relevant passages (about 25 passages)
  - k. The ancient Greek and Latin does not have language for "homosexual." In the Mediterranean culture, all people were considered what we would term "heterosexual" so that homosexual acts were seen as an abomination because the acts would not have been done for the survival of the tribe/family. And, in those days, same sex activity was coerced, without constraint, between older men and boys, men with slaves purchased for that purpose, and as religious prostitution.
6. Overview of ELCA's Sexuality Statement, Bishop's Letter, Supreme Court  
<http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Human-Sexuality:>  
[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/SexualitySS\\_Summary.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/SexualitySS_Summary.pdf)
7. ELCA presiding bishop offers letter on Supreme Court marriage ruling,
  - a. Review of Supreme Court decision on whether churches would be forced to perform same-sex marriages.
8. Silence for Prayer

(At this time, the council may entertain the motion to go into Executive Session.)

9. Congregational members attending share their thoughts, opinions and concerns
- a. Reviewed definition of "Reconciling in Christ" website concern does this make some folks more welcome than others? We want to be open to all people. Significant concerns with Biblical references. Would we lose members if folks thought that some more others were more welcome
  - b. Scripture review Romans I, definition of sin as relates to this issue, and the acceptance of it as sin also. Is this changing the definition of sin? Does it do the sinner any good? Do we pick and choose which sin we accept?

- c. Bill Franz has read considerable scripture, we can't lift one sin above others; no one has a monopoly on sin. Institution of family, as the social statement was being passed. Consider God's use of families, they come in all shapes in sizes. The 12 tribes of Israel 2 wives and 2 servants—they were a family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph were also a family. Want to recognize persons who want to be a family
- d. Reconciling in Christ issue. Even if we accept everything in the statement, would still be leery of joining the organization. Basically ambivalent as to the issue of performing same-sex marriages. What are the unintended consequences? Bigamy?

10. **Motion** made to go into executive session. 2 opposed, 8 in favor. Motion carries. Will develop action plan after executive session.

11. Silence for Prayer

12. Council Members sharing their thoughts, opinions and concerns  
a. Executive Session-separate minutes

13. Silence for Prayer

14. Time for discernment—discussion.

15. Silence for Prayer

16. Discussion of next steps; action items; discussion of 2 proposals. **Motion** that we authorize Pastor to perform pastoral care as he sees warranted, using his proposed Resolution introduced at the beginning of the meeting. Motion to amend statement by adding an additional sentence to the last paragraph reading: "And because we do, the Congregation Council of Christ Lutheran Church, Richmond, Virginia, offers pastoral care to all members of the community. The sacrament, rites, and other ministries of this congregation are available to all as appropriate." Vote on amended statement to accept. Unanimous. Vote on amended Statement on Pastoral Care Christ Lutheran Church Richmond, Virginia to accept. Unanimous,

- a. **Motion:** We will proactively explore learning and growth opportunities related to developing the welcoming atmosphere of our congregation, starting with the evangelism and visioning committees. **Vote: unanimous**
  - i. A preliminary position by each committee be presented at our next council meeting, and proposals be provided by the October council meeting. This would also be open to anyone who wishes to participate.
  - ii. For instance we could explore some of the training material and information of the RIC on how to have hard conversations. There could be other resources for training on other topics of being more

welcoming. The Christian Education team should be involved, as well as the Stewardship team.

## 17. Closing Prayer

**Resolution:**  
**Statement on Pastoral Care**  
**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Richmond, Virginia**  
**Adopted by Council on 8/31/15**

Among the many tasks of a pastor's call is to provide pastoral care to members of the congregation and to others in the community. This is an opportunity to walk with people as they share their struggles, joys and concerns to discover healing, hope, reconciliation, and guidance to sustain them in their life's journey. At times the pastor affirms behaviors or calls for correction and change to help them as they face the ups and downs of daily life. When a congregation calls a pastor, it trusts that the pastor will draw from God's Word, the examples of Jesus' own compassion, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, along with current and accepted practices, to discern where, when, and how to provide the needed pastoral care. Also, through the pastor the sacraments, rites, and other ministries of this congregation are available as appropriate for the care of all people.

Key to providing helpful pastoral care requires the pastor to meet people where they are so that the pastor can respond fully to the needs and concerns that are present in their lives. This creates a level of trust so that they know they are understood, respected, and accepted. In fact, the whole community of faith is called to see them as valued people of God. In this incarnational way, those in need of pastoral care can experience God's own understanding, acceptance, and love.

There are times in the pastoral care journey that the path taken is not necessarily in line with every member's personal opinion and biblical understanding. We all do not agree on issues, including scriptural interpretation and pastoral care. The Congregation Council of Christ Lutheran Church, Richmond, Virginia, recognizes this and is still committed that the care of others is a necessary priority of this congregation. We commit ourselves, therefore, to respect the variety of scriptural interpretations and opinions of social issues present in this congregation, to support the pastor in providing helpful pastoral care, and to trust that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit and surrounded by God's grace as we walk with others in love and compassion. And because we do, the Congregation Council of Christ Lutheran Church, Richmond, Virginia, offers pastoral care to all members of the community. The sacrament, rites, and other ministries of this congregation are available to all as appropriate