

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2021**  
Respectfully Submitted by Todd Nichols  
7:00 pm Council Meeting

**Council Members Present:** Tammy Davis, Todd Nichols, Scott Munger, Mark Reishus, Jennifer Harms, Kevin Keup, Terry Ulrich, and Peggy Juba.

**Advisory:** Pastor Kent Stillson, Pastor Dan Ofstehage

**Unable to attend:** Kristi Osthus

**Call to Order** by President Mark Reishus at 7:00pm

**Approve Agenda:** Terry Ulrich moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Jennifer Harms. Motion carried.

**What's on Top.**

**Opening Devotions** led by Peggy Juba

**Approve April Council Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Scott Munger seconded by Terry Ulrich to approve the April minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Given by Jennifer Harms. Reported the April numbers show a \$15984 surplus for the month. Nothing out of the ordinary regarding expenses for this point in the year. Motion to approve the April Treasurer's Report by Peggy Juba. Seconded by Kevin Keup. Motion carried.

**Pastor Dan's Report:**

1. Dan handed out a summary of the discussion questions discussed in a meeting held between services on 5/2/2021.
2. Reported Covid restrictions will be up to the families in regards to weddings and funerals moving forward.
3. Extended a message stating the need for extra cake making volunteers for such events.

**Pastor Kent's Report:**

A new ministry has begun, related to Brothers and Sisters Behind Bars, where LCOOR will be a crucial component. It is "2 Go Bags", with personal care items (deodorant, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, Bible, etc.) for men and women when they are released from county jail. LCOOR will order, pay for, and store the items. Volunteers have been recruited to package and deliver the "2 Go Bags" to the ICAP office in Watertown, where the recently released people will pick the bags up. We anticipate needing 20 bags a month. We have "seed money" of \$500.

Plans are in place to lessen Covid restrictions, when our summer worship schedule begins, May 22/23. The processes for how we will do the Sacraments, children's ministry and coffee have been worked out. The more vaccines that get into people's arms, the safer it will be to be together.

We are advertising heavily for the ¾ time Christian Education Director position (Indeed, SD employment, SD Synod and internally with worship announcements, newsletter, etc.) But, after 3 weeks we have no solid leads. We may need to be creative with our staffing, but we will have strong children's ministry however the leadership looks.

The preschool sign was vandalized a couple weeks ago. We filed a police report but have heard nothing back. We will work to get it replaced. This was a gift to the congregation when Client Stien died.

We will be sending out a post card invitation to the LAKE SERVICE next week to all the Watertown homes (2200), west of highway 81. We ordered 3000 cards for a cost of under \$400. The remaining cards will be handed out at worship and at a community band concert.

You will soon meet a new ELCA retired pastor, Dave Nerdig, as he and his wife Linda have moved into Watertown and joined LCOOR. Linda grew up in Watertown and Dave served his entire ministry career of nearly 40 years in Iowa. Pastor Dave has volunteered to help in any way that he is needed, though he reserves the right to say "no" and to live according to his wife's weekend schedule.

In the coming months, you will see some major changes with Joy Ranch. It will be announced in its May newsletter that Lutherans Outdoors of South Dakota has entered into a purchase agreement with Joy Nelson. Details still need to be worked out for a 501 C-3 to be developed. Joy Ranch will still be run as a retreat center of some sort, but it will no longer be operated by LOSD. This will leave 3 Lutheran Bible camps in SD: NeSoDak, Outlaw Ranch and Klein Ranch.

I am in the process of meeting 1 on 1 with each of the staff, to review the year and to set goals for the coming 6-12 months. We have a ministry staff planning session on Thursday to set the schedule for the coming fall and winter program year. We will be operating under the assumption that the programming will be back to pre-COVID "normal" with meals, singing and close contact.

In spite of all the disruption of schedules, the past 9 months of ministry have gone quite well. To our knowledge, no one has gotten the virus while at church. People have been mostly patient with out restrictions and eager to be drinking coffee together. Numbers have been down, but we are gradually seeing more people back. More so than usual, we are looking forward to summer.

The guidelines and recommendations for Clergy Sabbatical was presented.

#### **Old Business:**

1. Discussion concerning the Education Coordinator position. Options to make the position more attractive in leu of little interest thus far. Possibility of making it a full time position or job sharing options were discussed but no resolution was attained at this time.

#### **New Business:**

1. Executive Committee approved plan was presented to Council for the Sabbatical of Youth Director and Interim Christian Ed Director Phil Lickei. Motion by Scott Munger and seconded by Terry Ulrich to approve as presented. Motion carried.
2. Sabbatical proposal for Full Time Lay Ministry Staff was presented. Changes to made from the Council discussion were: 1) The addition of wording stating employees were granted a Sabbatical after every eight years of consecutive full time employment. 2) Staff granted a sabbatical leave are

expected to return to LCOOR for at least one year. Staff who resign within one year of completing their sabbatical leave, shall reimburse LCOOR the amount of any stipend granted beyond the accumulated education leave stipend. Motion by Scott Munger and second by Jennifer Harms to approve sabbatical proposal as presented plus the two additions. Motion Carried

3. Council agreed to structure of June 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting with Stewardship team and consultant Dave Brunkow.

**Committee Reports:**

**Education (Peg J.) no report**

**Fellowship (Twila-Staff):** No report.

**Finance (Todd Nichols):** No additional report.

**Preschool (Jennifer Harms):** Stewardship met to discuss scholarship ideas for vacant pre-school openings.

**Property (Kevin Keup & Mark Reishus):** No report.

**Stewardship (Scott Munger):** No additional report.

**Worship & Music (Kristi O.):** No report.

**Youth and Family Ministry (Terry U.):** No report.

**Policy (Tammy Davis):** No report.

**Council's next meeting:**

June 8<sup>th</sup>:

6:00 Meal – bring a dish to share

6:45 Joint meeting with Stewardship team

8:30 Brief Council Meeting

A motion was made by Scott Munger and seconded by Todd Nichols to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Motion carried.