

Luther Place Congregation Council Minutes

November 9, 2017

Present: Pastor Karen Brau, Patrick Callahan, Christina Davis, Jackson Droney, Ann Hill, Tara Hogan, Christiana Lundholm, Kate Wulff,

Apologies: Alex Adams, Chelsey Christensen, Candace Lilyquist, Betsy Moutenay, Einar Olson, Michael Wendt, Alberta Williams

Guests: Dick Rortvedt

Meeting began at 6:40 pm

I. Devotions (Dick Rortvedt)

Dick shared a prayer to open the meeting

II. Building Vision 2017 Update (Dick Rortvedt)

1. Dick provided a quick review of the 3 year process of Building Vision 2017. Council tasked the team in 2014 to look at how our building could live into our vision. Through a year of listening session with members and work with Inscape Publico, we now have a schematic set of drawings.
2. Dick walked the council through the schematic drawings, pointing out highlights and answering questions.
3. The schematic drawings will be forwarded on to the entire council to look at more thoroughly. Patrick and Dick will work together to consider a team to analyze the space use potential from a financial perspective.

III. Pastor's Report

Report as submitted with highlights:

Invitation Points – Pastor Karen shared her thoughts on invitation at LP (as a value, a narrative, and through behavior). Upcoming opportunities for invitation: GenOUT will be singing at the 10:30 worship on November 26th, Wednesday evenings in Advent, a grief and loss group led by Nancy White the first 3 Sundays in December, the Christmas morning Homeless Memorial procession and name reading.

IV. 2018 Budget (Kate and Patrick)

1. Council worked together to tell the story of the budget, noting our history, Vision 2017, and the work of the Property Committee in using the capital budget to keep our building going. As we consider the budget, we also need to consider the future of the congregation.
2. Kate and Patrick shared highlights from the proposed budget. Highlights include:
 - The budget forecasts an \$86,855 deficit.
 - It includes several one-time expenses including: a retention bonus for Steinbruck Center employees, a forecast for supply pastors while Pastor Karen is on sabbatical, and assistance in sending our youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering, and a reduction in income to the Steinbruck Center (as a result of groups attending the Youth Gathering.
 - There is a reduction in music salary.
 - The budget roughly breaks down to: 50% personnel, 25% maintenance, 10% ministry and hospitality, 15% other
 - Congregational giving is forecast at \$500,000. For 2017 giving was budgeted to be \$390,000 in November and we are currently at \$375,000.
 - The 2018 capital budget totals \$154,030 for 6 building projects (replacing the hot/cold water pump, masonry, spalling concrete, the parish hall apartment floor, pew removal, and renovating the elevator).
 - We anticipate a \$100,000 deficit for 2017.
 - Things that we are doing right: the deficit is getting smaller every year: budgeting our income more realistically, paying our staff justly/equitably, limiting the use of bequests to major projects, moving

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towards charging our tenants fairly, making strategic investments towards our vision; not reducing our contribution to the larger church, candidly discussing cuts with the congregation.

3. Mike moved to accept the budget as presented, to be presented to the congregation for the December 3rd Congregational meeting.
2nd: Christina
Motion Carried

V. Approval of October Minutes

Michael moved to accept the October minutes.
Second: Christina
Motion Carried

VI. Items for December Congregational Meeting

Jackson outlined the plan for the December 4th Congregational Meeting. In addition to the budget, other items will include: the Reconciling in Christ statement update, an update from Stewardship/Engagment, an introduction to Fellowship 1, and an update on the NSV Covenant.

VII. Committee Reports

1. Finance (Patrick)
Year to date giving was budgeted at \$390,000 and is \$374,966.40.
Michael moved to accent the Finance Report.
Second: Christiana
Motion Carried
2. Personnel (Betsy and Jackson)
Report as submitted.
3. Property (Patrick and Alex)
Report as submitted.
4. Membership (Chelsey and Alberta)
Report as submitted.
5. Stewardship (Patrick and Candace)
Report as submitted.
6. Engagement (Faith and Alex)
Report as submitted.
7. Racial Equity (Ann and Tara)
Report as submitted.
8. Celebration 2017 (Einar and Christina)
Report as submitted, with one highlight: Now that the Reformation celebration has passed, the team has changed their name and updated their purpose statement.
9. Community Care (Christiana and Christine)
Report as submitted.

VIII. Closing

1. Closing Prayer.
2. Next meeting – Thursday, December 14th
Pastor Karen will be hosting the December meeting at the parsonage. She will provide a main dish and asks that everyone bring a side to share.