

Luther Place Congregation Council Minutes
January 11, 2017

Present: Pastor Karen Brau, Patrick Callahan, Christina Davis, Jackson Dronney, Ann Hill, Tara Hogan, Faith Korbel, Christiana Lundholm, Betsy Moutenay, Einar Olson, Kate Wulff,

Apologies: Alex Adams, Chelsey Christensen, Candace Lilyquist, Michael Wendt, Alberta Williams

Meeting began at 6:30 pm

I. Devotions (Ann Hill)

II. Approvals

Betsy moved to accept the meeting agenda.

2nd: Christina

Motion Carried

Kate moved to accept the December minutes

2nd: Christina

Motion Carried

III. Pastor's Report

Report as submitted, with highlights:

- Pastor asks for support as the staff works through transitions.
- Work with New Connections continues, and Kristen Kane will be sharing more about "Lasting Impact" in this meeting.
- Public Ministry: Luther Place was highlighted on the cover of Street Sense, as the host site for the Homeless Memorial Vigil on December 21st. The church will also be one of the host sites for the Festival of Homilitics at the end of May. Pastor Karen will be leading a workshop focusing on Bonhoeffer and Tubman (using the windows). Pastor invited Council to an MLK worship at Metropolitan AME (Sunday at 3:30 pm).
- Worship: Our Three Kings service on Sunday was a focused outreach even to the summer camp families and the co-op. Staff has negotiated with NSV to allow ladies from the recovery floor to attend worship the first Sunday of the month.
- Spiritual Formation: The 9:15 spiritual formation group will be studying reformers and prophets, using the associates of the individuals in the 4 front stained glass windows. A new 4 week Contemplative Catechism small group is forming.

IV. Introduction of "Lasting Impact"

Kristen Kane introduced Council to the book "Lasting Impact", which Council will be reading and discussing over the next 5 months, as a part of the New Connections campaign. The book is made up of 7 conversations and Council members reviewed the book and chose the 4 conversations on which we would like to focus (one per month). The conversations will be:

February – Conversation #7 What are we actually willing to change?

March – Conversation #1 Why are we not growing faster?

April – Conversation #4 What keeps high-capacity leaders from engaging our mission?

May – Conversation #3 Are our leaders healthy...really?

In preparation for the February meeting, Council members will read (and be prepared to discuss) the introduction and Conversation #7.

V. Recap of Council and Team Development Discussion

1. Council reviewed "The Five Dysfunctions of a Team", as discussed at the December meeting. Members shared examples of experiences on healthy teams and what made them healthy.

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2. Jackson led a discussion of what team/committee decisions need to be brought to Council and which do not. Some decisions that need to come to Council are clearly outlined in the Luther Place Bylaws, but some are not, leading to feelings that members don't know how decisions are made. He asked that anyone with thoughts on how to better clarify the difference bring their ideas to the Executive Committee.
 - Einar noted that he often isn't sure which decisions need to come to Council and which he can just make. Jackson explained that, over the years, Council has made an effort to let teams make more decisions on their own and has shifted away from micro-managing, but has not clarified that change formally.
 - Christiana would like more clarification about outward facing decisions (our congregation relating to other congregations).

VI. Sound System Responsibility

Jackson shared concerns about the small number of people who know how to set up and use the sound system. He will check-in with both Michael Wendt and Justin Fitch to discuss the potential need for a team of volunteers. Faith and the Engagement Team will also discuss possible volunteers. There are also questions about the security of the system.

VII. Worship Safety/Contingency

Pastor Karen led a discussion about worship safety, following an incident that occurred during the 10:30 service on Sunday, January 7th. A man made his way to the pulpit during the sermon and started to pull something out of his backpack. While it turned out that he was simply taking a Bible out to read, it was a scary moment. He wanted to read a passage from Paul about women not speaking in Church and was ushered out. Council members who were present debriefed about the incident and shared their thoughts and reactions. While, in the end, the situation was not dangerous, it did bring up feelings and questions including: Council members who were present shared their thoughts, feelings, and reactions. Questions included: What is the line between offering hospitality and allowing a dangerous situation? What happens with the Facebook Live feed? Should we have CPR training? Is this a conversation we need to have with the entire congregation? Pastor Karen has been in contact with Metropolitan AME. They have a security ministry and would be willing to meet with us. Pastor Karen ended with the reminder that, as we did in this case, our congregation always needs to be with love and hospitality.

VIII. Committee Reports

1. Finance (Kate and Patrick)
Report as submitted, with highlights:
 - Year to date giving was budgeted at \$505,000 and we ended at \$487,000. This is \$19,000 more than last year.
 - Our overall deficit was budgeted at \$85,609, and we came in at \$61,986.
 - Property costs came out significantly under budget.Betsy moved to accept the Finance Report.
Second: Einar
Motion Carried
2. Property (Patrick and Alex)
Report as submitted.
3. Personnel (Betsy and Jackson)
Report as submitted, with highlights:

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- Deborah Shepherd has given notice and will be leaving her position at the end of the month. We are happy for her new opportunity and she has been helpful in helping to identify ways to update the job description.

Tara moved to accept Deborah's resignation

Second: Kate

Motion Carried

- The team renewed Justin Fitch's contract through May 27th.

4. Membership (Chelsey and Alberta)

Report as submitted.

5. Stewardship (Patrick and Candace)

Report as submitted, with highlights:

- The year-end campaign brought in approximately \$27,000 from about 30 people.
- The team is launching pilot member visits this month and would appreciate council involvement.

6. Engagement (Faith and Alex)

Report as submitted.

7. Racial Equity (Ann and Tara)

Report as submitted, with highlight:

The team is hosting a Racial Equity discussion on Sunday, January 14th.

8. Celebration 2017 (Einar and Christina)

The team is really looking for new members. Betsy suggested first finding roles for people to fill and time estimates so they can volunteer for small jobs.

9. Community Care (Christiana and Christina)

Report as submitted.

IX. Closing

1. Closing Prayer.
2. Next meeting – Thursday, February 8th