

**Luther Place Congregational Meeting Minutes**  
**December 3, 2017**

In attendance: 29

Dale McDaniel opened the meeting at 12:01 pm with a prayer.

I. Welcome

1. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Betsy Mountenay moved to accept the meeting agenda as presented.

Second: Christina Davis

Motion Carried

2. Approval of June Congregational Meeting Minutes (6/4/17)

Catherine Perry moved to accept the minutes with no corrections.

Second: Kate Wulff

Motion Carried

II. 2018 Budget Discussion

1. Introduction: Kate Wulff and Patrick Callahan walked the congregation through the 2018 Budget Proposal, which included a letter from the Council President and Treasurer, a summary narrative, a financial snapshot, financial details by line, and frequently asked questions. All materials were provided via the most recent e-blast.

2. Questions/Comments:

- Julie Hamre noted that the congregation has been the beneficiary of over \$3 million in bequests since 2008 and will soon be down to \$500,000. The money has been used for good things, but it is going quickly and we need to continue to ask: do we stop spending and put the money away or do we spend it on things we need?
- Einar Olson noted that the capital budget includes a lot of building/maintenance projects and questions whether they are actually one time expenses. Kate responded that we do have a significant maintenance line in the budget for annual repairs.
- Patrick Callahan wanted to make sure the congregation understands that we are looking at 4-5 years to actually balance the budget. The Finance teams will continue look at and manage expenses, but we also need to focus on giving.
- Susan Boyle asked if we are making an effort to try to educate the congregation on giving. Patrick shared that we will discuss that further in the Stewardship presentation.
- Einar Olson asked if we know the percentage of members who pledge. Jackson said that we have not done a giving campaign for quite some time. Julie noted that we know the giving numbers from the system.

3. Approval:

Kate Wulff moved to approve the 2018 budget as presented.

Second: Betsy Mountenay

Motion Carried

III. Stewardship Presentation

1. Patrick Callahan updated the congregation on the Stewardship Team's work over the past year and what is coming up. Highlights include:

- Replacing our aging computer-based church management system to the cloud-based FellowshipOne Go & Giving.
- Unified communications branding and electronic presence
- Launching the "thank you" initiative.
- Launching revolving sanctuary story boards.

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- Launching FellowshipOne to group leaders and the congregation. (in progress)
- A soft launch of the #IAmLutherPlace campaign. (in progress)
- Launching member visits in 4Q17 through end of 1Q18. (in progress)
- Working with staff to updated roster information. (in progress)
- Developing a volunteer management and training program. (in progress)
- Intentional focus on “engagement” and “connection” through multiple ministries. (in progress)

Jackson and Patrick both noted the importance of loggin into Fellowship one and updating your information and profile.

### 2. Questions/Comments:

- Cheryl Barnes requested assistance in logging into FellowshipOne and learning how to use it.
- Einar Olson, noting Patrick’s statement that only 130 of the 540 who received the enews actually open it, asked whether the back of the bulletin might be a better place for announcements.
- Jackson shared that he recently re-read the vision statement and it clarified how far we have come, particularly when looking at both the budget and Stewardship presentations.

### V. Update on Music Ministry

Charles Stepanek (Chair of the Personnel Team) explained that the 2018 budget includes money for contract musicians to cover both the 10:30 am and 5:00 pm services. Our current contract musician has agreed to stay through May.

Pastor Karen updated the congregation on the status of the 5:00 pm service. She is assembling a team of people with a diversity of experiences with God, who are interested in developing the service. The team will start meeting in January and will focus on listening. The current service will act as a placeholder. If anyone is interested in joining this team, they should contact Pastor Karen.

### VI. Update of Reconciling in Christ Statement

1. Jackson explained the congregation’s history with the organization Lutherans Concerned/North America (now known as Reconciling Works). In October 2000, the congregation voted to become a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) congregation by adopting an “Affirmation of Welcome to gay and lesbian Christians.” In September 2017, the Council was asked to approve a more inclusive update to our RIC designation to read that Luther Place is “affirming and welcoming of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.” Council unanimously approved this change at the October meeting. The exact language on our official RIC certificate would now read:

*Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation hereby certifies that Luther Place Memorial Church Washington, DC has adopted an affirmation of welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, and is recognized as Reconciling in Christ on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 2000.*

2. Questions/Comments

Michael Sonnenberg noted that Luther Place has always been affirming of all, but it’s important to make it official. He noted that the Embrace Team has prepared a storyboard in the back, detailing terms and explanations.

3. Approval

Dan Corbett moved to approve the updates to our RIC designation, as presented.

Second: Katherine Perry

Motion Carried

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VII. NSV Land Covenant Update

1. Jackson provided an update on Luther Place's discussions with N Street Village regarding the Land Covenant. In June, the congregation voted to entrust the church council with the authority to make a final decision by December 31, 2017. Once the terms for the land use agreement were written and the language was finalized, the council could approve and the final paperwork could be completed. Unfortunately, we have almost reached the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline and the terms have not yet been agreed upon.
2. Paul Ramshaw moved to extend the Council 's authority in this matter to June of 2018.  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Kate Wulff  
Motion Carried

VIII. Closing

Catherine Perry closed the meeting with prayer.