

Luther Place Congregation Council Minutes
May 10, 2018

Present: Alex Adams, Pastor Karen Brau, Patrick Callahan, Chelsey Christensen, Christina Davis, Jackson Droney, Ann Hill, Tara Hogan, Kristin Kane, Faith Korbel, Candace Lilyquist (by phone), Betsy Moutenay, Einar Olson, Michael Wendt, Kate Wulff

Apologies: Christiana Lundholm, Alberta Williams

Guests: Dick Rortvedt

Meeting began at 6:45pm

I. Devotions

Jackson shared a devotion contemplating Psalm 130.

II. Approvals

Michael moved to accept the agenda.

2nd: Patrick

Motion Carried

Chelsey moved to accept the March minutes as presented.

2nd: Christina

Motion Carried

III. Preparation for Annual Meeting (Jackson)

Council reviewed the draft agenda for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 13th. The agenda includes the presentation of the Annual Report, an update on Building Vision 2017, a vote to support the Co-op Incubator MOU, an update from Pastor Karen's sabbatical team, the election of new council members, and an update on the NSV land covenant. It is Mother's Day, but we need to encourage members to stay for the meeting.

IV. Pastor's Report (Pastor Karen)

Report as submitted, with highlights:

1. We are pausing on the 5 pm worship and will turn to listening.
2. Pastor Karen's coach, Brian Zehr, will be here the afternoon/evening of June 11th to meet with council members and the congregation.
3. The Festival of Homiletics is the last week of May. Luther Place has been asked to take part in a vigil that Sojourner is putting together.
4. The Rain Garden project is coming to an end, and new leaders are working together to continue gardening the space.
5. The Sabbatical Team will present a report to council in June.

V. 2018-2019 Teams (Jackson)

1. As the council year ends, it is time to consider the current council teams and decide whether any need to be changed or replaced. the Celebration Team will be coming to an end, and the Worship Team is changing. There has been a recommendation to create a Justice Team, to look at the ways that Luther Place can engage in social justice. In addition, the staff has identified the three primary areas for growth as: The Steinbruck Center, Worship, and Youth and Families. Maybe, as a start, we need representatives (or liasons) on Council for each of those areas.
2. Questions/Comments:
 - Could we expand the Racial Equity Team to include Justice? Tara believes that the two teams should be in close contact and work together, but that they should be separate.
 - Community Care is coming to a point where they will be completing their listening and evaluation time. As a result, that team may evolve into something else.

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- Might the Worship Team become a New Connections Team? Possible.
- Would the BV17 Teams we discussed last week need a connection to Council? They will report to Council but will not have a representative on Council.

VI. Objectives for Long Range Planning/Task Force on Deficit Reduction

1. Council reviewed a draft document, prepared by the Executive Team, outlining the objectives for both the Task Force on Deficit Reduction Team and the Long Range Planning Committee.
2. Questions/Comments:
 - Dick is pleased that the document provides specific objectives, as requested. He noted that once these objectives are met, the team could also morph into a group that tackles other tasks. He suggested adding the following bullets under the Long Range Planning Committee objectives:
 - *facilitate the grant application process for available grants, including the Partnership for Sacred Spaces grant.*
 - *complete other duties as assigned by the Council.*
 - Pastor Karen asked that the Long Range Planning Committee have an aggressive beginning, so they can get as much in before her Sabbatical.
3. Motion:

Michael moved to affirm the objectives for the Task Force on Deficit Reduction and Long Range Planning Committee, as amended.
2nd: Betsy
Motion Carried
4. Dick and John have volunteered to lead the Long Range Planning Committee. Jackson requested that they put their team together by the June Council meeting. The Executive Team would like feedback for people to serve on the Task Force on Deficit Reduction as well.
Chelsey moved to accept Dick Rortvedt and John Means as the leaders of the Long Range Planning Committee.
2nd: Christina
Motion Carried.

VII. Committee Reports

1. Finance (Kate and Patrick)

Report as submitted, with highlights:
The grant balance and a strong showing from the Steinbruck Center make it look like we are in better shape than we are. We are currently \$3,000 behind in giving year to date.
Betsy moved to accept the report.
2nd: Christina
Motion Carried.
2. Property (Patrick and Alex)

Report as submitted.
3. Personnel (Betsy and Jackson)

Report as submitted with highlights:
The Personnel Team shared with Council a 1 year contract for Justin Fitch to continue as our Music Director.
Betsy moved to accept the contract as presented.
2nd: Kate
Motion Carried.
Michael asked if the Personnel Team had solicited feedback from the congregation regarding Justin's performance. Betsy confirmed that they did and that the feedback was positive.

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Patrick asked for confirmation that the cost discussed in the contract was covered by the existing budget. Yes, it is within the budget.

Ann asked when the year starts.

The contract is June 1, 2018-May 31, 2019

4. Membership (Chelsey and Alberta)

Report as submitted with highlights:

There are 3 new members still ready to join – 1 will join on May 22nd and the 2 others will join on June 1st. They plan to fit in one more class of new members before Pastor Karen's sabbatical.

5. Stewardship (Patrick and Candace)

Report as submitted with highlights:

The draft member visit guide is ready for review and the team is asking for feedback by Tuesday, April 17th. They plan to visit 50% of active members by the end of June.

6. Engagement (Faith and Alex)

Report as submitted, with highlights:

- At the Congregational Meeting, the Engagement Team is prepared to present 5 new Council Members for 3-year terms (Elizabeth Ellis, Jay Forth, Tom Randall, Tanay Tatum-Edwards, Doug Walter) and 1 Council Member for a 2-year term (Kate Wulff).

- At this meeting, the Engagement Team would like to present Abeba Mabratu for the Audit Team. Christina moved to accept Abeba Mebratu's appointment to the Audit Team.

2nd: Tara

Motion Carried

- Council also needs to accept Jackson's resignation from the Council, effective the June Council Meeting

Betsy moved to accept Jackson's resignation as Council President, effecting the June Council Meeting.

2nd: Alex

Motion Carried

7. Racial Equity (Ann and Tara)

Report as submitted with highlights:

Ann and Tara note a bit of stagnation with the team, but the two of them are meeting to discuss next steps.

8. Celebration (Einar and Christina)

Report as submitted with highlights:

The team's last project is signs commemorating the 145th anniversary of the church. Patrick is helping them with that project.

9. Community Care (Christiana and Christina)

Report as submitted, with highlights:

The team plans to meet at the end of the month to review the information collected and consider recommendations. They have a survey for members to complete. Chelsey volunteered to include the link to the survey in the social media.

10. Worship/Vision (Michael)

(previously discussed)

VIII. Transition to New Council

1. Reflections on the past year/ideas for next year:

- It would have been good to do more one-on-ones.

- It would have been helpful for the Executive Team to provide a report monthly or quarterly.

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- The emphasis on devotions and the Lasting Impact discussions were good – it was nice to spend time not just talking about business.
 - Sometimes, when projects take too long, it's easy to feel stuck.
 - Meetings can be a struggle when we are all tired and we don't want things to drag, but it's important to leave time for reflection. It's a balance to get things done while listening to the Spirit.
 - It's important to come to meetings with the right attitude – the purpose of a meeting is not to finish the meeting.
 - There are also times when it's best to table the discussion.
2. The next council meeting will be on June 14th, following the second Thursday of the month pattern. That meeting will need to include:
- a review of the governing documents
 - a review of Council commitments
 - discussion of the meeting schedule
 - electing the executive committee (those interested in the executive committee positions should let either Jackson or Faith know prior to the council meeting)
 - organizing the council teams and team council representatives
 - establishing and approving Trustees (must be DC residents and there must be 2 per class)
 - consider a plan for the summer (installation service and council retreat)

IX. Discussion of “Lasting Impact”

Council discussed the book discussion – was it worth the time and should we continue?

Everyone agreed that discussion had been good and that it might be a good practice for every other month.

The council agreed to read the chapter centered on Healthy Leaders at the June meeting.

IX. Closing

1. Closing Prayer.
2. Next meeting – Thursday, June 14th