



Luther Place Congregation Council Minutes

June 14, 2018

Luther Place, All Saints Room

Present: Pastor Karen Brau, Patrick Callahan, Christina Davis, Jay Forth, Ann Hill, Tara Hogan, Candace Lilyquist, Christiana Lundholm, Betsy Mountenay, Thomas Randall, Tanay Tatum-Edwards, Doug Walter, Michael Wendt, Kate Wulff

Apologies: Elizabeth Ellis, Einar Olsen

The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm.

Devotion

Betsy shared a devotion around Matthew 10 and asked each Council member present to introduce themselves and share a "superpower" they had.

Tara passed around a sign up sheet for devotion leaders for the remainder of the Council year. The schedule will be included in the agenda starting with the July meeting.

Agenda

A motion was made by Betsy Mountenay to approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion was seconded by Kate Wulff and passed unanimously.

Minutes

The May minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. The new Council members indicated they had not received all materials and Tara noted that she would check to ensure they were added to the Council Google Group and set up to receive emails.

A motion was made by Kate Wulff to accept the May 2018 Council Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Patrick Callahan and passed unanimously.

Election of Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Prior to the meeting interested parties let outgoing President Jackson Droney and outgoing Secretary Faith Korbel know which position they were interested in. The following expressed interest and their names were put forth for approval:

President – Tara Hogan

Vice President – Betsy Mountenay

Secretary – Christina Davis

Treasurer – Kate Wulff

The responsibilities of each position was briefly reviewed and the floor was opened to additional nominations. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

A motion was made by Patrick Callahan to elect the executive committee as presented. The motion was seconded by Christiana Lundholm and passed unanimously.

Election of Trustees

Two trustees needed to be appointed from the new Council members whose term expires in 2021. Under DC law they are required to be residents of DC. Tanay Tatum-Edwards and Jay Forth submitted their names for the positions.

A motion was made by Kate Wulff to appoint Tanay Tatum-Edwards and Jay Forth as trustees. The motion was seconded by Michael Wendt and passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report

A report was submitted electronically. Pastor Karen discussed the following highlights:

- Sabbatical – There is a team in place assisting with preparations for Pastor Karen's sabbatical, both prior to, during, and post-Sabbatical.
- Coaching - The coaching session earlier in the week involved a conversation on focusing on new ways to engage with the Luther Place neighborhood. We are moving into a season of intentional invitation.
- Season of Listening – Kristen Kane is leading through the New Connections program. The Sunday AM service serves those who have experience in church. This will explore how we can reach others and also how our Congregation is hearing and connecting to God.
- Festive of Homiletics – Luther Place served as the overflow church and received a standing room only audience on both levels of the sanctuary. Pastor Karen connected with Pastor Rob Lee who lost his job for preaching against white supremacy and invited him to be a guest preacher on June 24.
- Long Term Planning Committee – The committee is still filling positions but held their first meeting the previous night.

Church Council Commitments

The Commitments on the back of the agenda, last reviewed and amended at the June 2017 meeting, were reviewed. All returning Council members were asked to read a commitment and offer their insight or any additional comments on each.

The floor was then opened to any new additions that Council members had.

The following additions were suggested:

- The Holy Pause – This recognizes that when we are together as a group Christ is with us. When conversations get difficult we can take a Holy Pause which will allow us to stop, regroup, and come back together to listen and move forward.
- Being Present – Council members are asked to limit technology to what is necessary and to step outside if they need to focus on a phone conversation or text. The members should stay focused and connected to each other.

- Culture Check – Take time in the meeting to let each Council member express what they appreciate and/or thankful for.

A motion was made by Betsy Mountenay to accept these additions. The motion was seconded by Patrick Callahan and passed unanimously.

The Council agreed to continue to meet monthly and at least for July and August to keep the timing of the meetings to the 2nd Thursday of each month with a start time of 6:30pm. The timing may be revisited during Pastor Karen's sabbatical.

Overview of Constitution & Bylaws

Copies of the document were distributed to all Council members and are also available on the website. Kate reviewed the structure of the document and gave a brief overview of its contents.

2018-2019 Teams & Liaisons

Starting in the 2016-2017 Council year all Council members were asked to co-lead a team. The Council went through the list of teams for 2018-2019 and volunteered for open positions on existing teams and new teams. A brief description of each team was provided. Going forward teams will be asked to submit monthly reports prior to each Council meeting. At the July meeting they will be asked to present any updates to their purpose statement or provide one if they are new team.

Finance

Leads: Kate & Patrick

This committee is prescribed by the bylaws. As Treasurer Kate is ex officio lead and Patrick will continue to serve as Council lead.

The report was submitted electronically but the new Council members did not receive it. We continue to be behind in budgeted projections for giving and are running at the projected deficit. A more detailed report will be provided at the July meeting.

A motion was made by Candace Lilyquist to conditionally approve the monthly financial report pending any additional comments new Council members may have once they're reviewed it. The motion was seconded by Thomas Randall and passed unanimously.

Property

Lead: Patrick

This committee is prescribed by the bylaws. The committee is working on the needed replacement of the current elevator.

Personnel

Lead: Betsy

This committee is prescribed by the bylaws and members of the committee need to be voted in by Council.

A motion was made by Betsy Mountenay to elect Eddy Ameen to the committee. The motion was seconded by Kate Wulff and passed unanimously.

Membership

Leads: Ann & Elizabeth

Stewardship

Leads: Candace & Patrick

Engagement

Leads: Christina & Doug

Racial Equity

Leads: Ann & Tanay

Community Care

Leads: Christiana & Christina

New Connections/Listening

Leads: Michael & Tom

This is a new version of the Worship Team from last year.

Protest & Movement

Leads: Jay & Einar

This is a new team.

Three liaison positions were created. Liaisons will act as the voice for existing teams/programs and will provide updates, present issues, and other information as needed to Council. The following liaison roles were decided:

Steinbruck Center – Tanay

Youth & Families – Betsy

Long Range Planning/Deficit Reduction Task Force – Patrick

Closing Reflection/Prayer

Council was asked to share how they were feeling and what they learned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2018 at 6:30pm in the All Saints Room of Luther Place.

Submitted by: Christina Davis, Secretary, 2018-2019