



## Luther Place Congregation Council Minutes

August 9, 2018

Luther Place, All Saints Room

**Present:** Pastor Karen Brau, Patrick Callahan, Christina Davis, Elizabeth Ellis, An Hill, Tara Hogan, Christiana Lundholm, Betsy Mountenay, Einar Olsen, Tanay Tatum-Edwards, Kate Wulff, Tom Randall

**Apologies:** Michael Wendt, Jay Forth, Doug Walter, Candace Lilyquist

**Guests:** Dick Rortvedt

The meeting was called to order at 6:38pm.

### Devotion/Spiritual Practice

Kate read a devotion from Sojourners related to Psalm 135:4 and a connected quote from Dorothy Day.

### Agenda

A motion was made by Tom to approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion was seconded by Patrick and passed unanimously.

### Minutes

The July minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Betsy to accept the July 2018 Council Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Einar and passed unanimously.

### Long Range Planning Update – Dick Rortvedt

A written report was submitted.

Dick summarized the progress of the Building Vision Plan Task Force and the proposal last Spring to end that Task Force and restart the Long Range Planning Committee. The committee's first task is to research how the building can raise more money with its current structure. Moving forward they will work with the newly formed Deficit Reduction Task Force. The committee has been trying to work on as much preliminary work as possible before Pastor Karen goes on Sabbatical.

The committee has three proposals for how to move forward:

- Research and plan for an increase in revenue generation with no short term plans for renovations. This would also involve an increase in expenses and staff time needed to market and manage the space use.
- Convert the second and third floor for long term leases to outside tenants and consolidate the space used for Luther Place Staff
- Phase in elements of Building Vision 17 as space use and the budget allows.

The first proposal is the one recommended by the committee at this time. They have begun to research proposed space use rates that are based slightly under the average for similar types of space in the DC are. The first phase would not involve adding staff but may involve an increase in time for current staff. Other costs include upgraded furniture and an improved external entry system.

## **Pastor's Report & Sabbatical Update**

A proposal has been put in for a renewed New Connections Grant and the Synod is reviewing it.

There have been active conversations on the changes to the Youth and Family Ministry.

Sabbatical – The Go Fund Me started has been funded and a plan is in place for how to allocate the funds.

Pastor Tony Carpenter is excited to be with us. PK has appointed representatives for various committees. Brad Eayrs will represent her on the Property Committee and Jackson Droney will represent her on the Finance Committee.

## **Discussion of Krista's Departure**

Krista Sickert-Bush submitted her letter of resignation on July 31. It was unexpected and voluntary. Various staff and council representatives have spent time over the past week reaching out to members for discussion and processing as needed.

## **Edman Charitable Remainder**

This is an organization that we are a beneficiary of that requires use to submit written authorization for our designees in order to collect our benefits. The document submitted by them was shared with the council. It certifies Julie Hamre as comptroller and Xavier Williams as Parish Administrator to perform any and all transactions allowable with the EDMAN CHARITABLE REMAINDER account on behalf of Luther Place.

A motion was made by Einar to authorize Xavier and Julie to sign the document and carry out all actions. The motion was seconded by Christina and passed unanimously.

## **Introduction to the 2018 Budget Process**

An email was sent with information on the preliminary steps to start the budget process. It is starting earlier due to the sabbatical and staff transitions.

A preliminary budget will be presented in October, approved in November, and submitted to the congregation for approval in December.

## **Teams & Liaisons Updates**

### Personnel - Betsy

Written report submitted as well as Pastor Tony's contract.

A motion was made by Betsy to accept Krista's resignation. The motion was seconded by Tanay and passed unanimously.

### Finance – Kate and Patrick

Written report submitted.

A motion was made by Christiana to accept the June and July financials. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth and passed unanimously.

### Property – Patrick

The interim cleaning company was hired on a permanent basis. There are seven proposals for building manager. The proposed model would be to use both for a year. They are also looking at landscape and snow removal proposals.

The proposal is to not take on new leases during Pastor Karen's sabbatical and to talk to current tenants about their leases in October.

Membership – Ann & Elizabeth

The team is working on a time to meet and a Doodle poll is being distributed.

Stewardship – Candace & Patrick

Written report submitted.

Engagement – Christina & Doug

Written report submitted.

Racial Equity – Ann & Tanay

Written report submitted.

On August 26 they will be leading the Adult Formation session on what Racial Equity looks like at Luther Place and gathering ideas from the Congregation.

Community Care – Christiana & Christina

Written report submitted.

New Connections/Listening – Michael & Tom

Written report submitted.

Protest & Movement – Jay & Einar

Written report submitted.

This coming weekend is the United to Love and Luther Place is determining what movements and groups to support. They will be convening at 12:00pm to attend an event running from 11-3. Einar has reached out to the Synod to discuss ways the Synod can get involved and support this event. He was unable to work with them to get contact information on other churches to help reach out to them.

He would also like a message sent out with logistical details to the congregation.

Steinbruck Center Liaison – Tanay

Sarah and Bianca sent a report that Tanay will forward to the Council. Tanay will look into if they will need logistical support in moving the Steinbruck Center to its new floor.

Youth & Families Liaison – Betsy

No report.

Long Range Planning/Deficit Reduction Task Force – Patrick

Written report submitted.

**Closing Reflection/Prayer**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2018 at 6:30pm in the All Saints Room of Luther Place.

*Submitted by: Christina Davis, Secretary, 2018-2019*