



Luther Place Congregation Council Minutes
December 13, 2018
Luther Place Parsonage

Present: Tara Hogan, Betsy Mountenay, Elizabeth Ellis, Einar Olsen, Kate Wulff, Jay Forth, Michael Sonnenberg, Doug Walter, Pastor Karen

Apologies: Christina Davis, Ann Hill, Christiana Lundholm, Michael Wendt, Tanay Tatum-Edwards, Elizabeth Ellis, Tom Randall, Patrick Callahan, Michael Wendt

Guest: Dick Rortvedt

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm.

Devotion/Spiritual Practice

Jay prayed to God in thankfulness for the return of Pastor Karen from sabbatical and asking wisdom for the council.

Agenda

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

Minutes

The November minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting.

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

Candace Lilyquist Resignation and Michael Sonnenberg As Her Replacement

Due to various time constraints, Candace asked to resign from council. A motion was made by Tara to accept her resignation, which was seconded by Kate and approved by unanimous vote.

Tara indicated that Candace's replacement may be chosen by the Executive Committee, which is recommending Michael Sonnenberg to fill her seat. A motion was made by Tara for Michael to replace Candace on council. The motion was seconded by Jay and passed unanimously.

Long Range Planning (LRP)

Dick Rortvedt joined the meeting to discuss LPMC rental space use and provided a report with four recommendations from the LRP Committee:

- (1) Use consistent decision-making criteria for all space rentals and require written agreements, even for event rentals, with recommended criteria based on compatibility of mission and management considerations.
- (2) Meeting with current long-term tenants (mainly on second floor) to review agreements and space use to provide more efficiency and consistency (in terms of agreements and rental rates) in the year ahead.
- (3) Consult with a commercial real estate broker about long-term leasing of the third floor. There is currently overflow for Steinbruck Center (1st quarter 2019 full), but LPMC should have a full time professional to assist in

renting out professional space with a target average for Class B real estate for the area and seeking 5-year commitments. Space may need to be reconfigured.

- (4) Develop fee guidelines/schedule for recurring weekly/monthly space use for those groups (such as recovery, mission-linked and community groups) that regularly use space.

LRP Committee is seeking council approval of the first recommendation and approval and guidance as to who should be involved (such as meeting and consulting with the tenants) in the second and third recommendations.

Dick suggested that someone needs to be doing long range planning and a congregation group involved in that planning with a question on how council wants the LRP Committee to interact in these processes.

Jay suggested that Xavier could be involved in recommendation (2) and there was further discussion about his involvement in (2) and (3). Kate suggested an *ad hoc* congregation group could be involved in negotiations regarding recommendations (2) and (3). Tara suggested that staff drive negotiations, assisted by the LRP Committee, regarding recommendation (2).

Kate raised a question about what will happen to archive material if the entire 3rd floor is rented out. Dick suggested that the back of sacristy could be used to hold the material. Michael suggested that the material would need to be in a climate-controlled area and that it could be sent to the regional Lutheran archives.

A motion was made by Jay to accept the consistent decision-making criteria for space rental pursuant to recommendation (1). Einar seconded the motion and council unanimously approved.

A Motion was made by Tara for council approval of the long-range planning recommendation [recommendation (2)]for negotiating the long-term space agreement with the 2nd floor tenants, to be negotiated by the parish administrator and assisted by LRP Committee. The motion was seconded by Betsy and passed unanimously.

A motion made by Tara that council approve that the parish administrator consult with commercial real estate brokers about long-term rental of the 3rd floor space [per recommendation (3)]. Einar seconded the motion and council unanimously approved.

Pastor Karen's Re-Entry Report

Pastor Karen reiterated her written report thanking LPMC for the gift of her sabbatical, which was guided by the word "listen." She spent time meditating, being creative, reading books slowly (on leadership and "radical candor"), spending time with Quakers and caring for her family.

She believes that we are invited to be transformative leaders ("God is calling us to be this as Christ changes us.") and asked how we engage in transformation that is both still and moving.

N Street Village Covenant Update

As a follow-up to the December congregational meeting, Tara reiterated that LPMC is looking to return to the status quo in its relationship with N Street Village before it changed its by-laws. The church's lawyer will be sending a letter to N Street Village to this effect.

2019 Priorities and Planning—Group

PK indicated that Kristen has a plan and will talk during the January 27th congregation get together about new connections and the plan.

2019 Priorities and Planning--Subcommittees

Youth and Family and Sunday School—Betsy suggested that there needs to be recruitment for this ministry, and Kate suggested that there is a lot of energy around older children but not for the smaller children. Tara suggested an inter-generational group.

Stewardship—Kate suggested that this needs to be reinvigorated.

Racial Equity—Tara suggested that staff and council need to drive this forward with norms for decision-making and a public profession of our goal for equality for LPMC.

Teams & Liaisons Updates

Personnel - Betsy

Written report to be submitted.

Finance – Kate and Patrick

Written report submitted.

A motion was made by Kate to approve the report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Betsy and passed unanimously.

Property – Patrick

Tara indicated that the church cancelled its contract with Trimark, since they never engaged with us. Property does not think that another facilities management company is available (next lowest bid was \$96,000 annually for on-site person for 20 hours a week, which is not acceptable).

The council decided to forgo any decisions on property upkeep for this meeting but agreed that a temporary solution is needed. PK has talked with N Street for someone to be a temporary engineer to address systems maintenance but not cleaning.

In the long-term, LPMC probably will have to hire someone on staff. Dick to help to identify temporary solution, while Jay will reach out to his site. Tara indicated that Tim has drafted a position description, and Michael suggested sharing services with other churches in the synod or physically near LPMC.

Membership – Ann & Elizabeth

No report.

Stewardship – Candace & Patrick

No report.

Engagement – Christina & Doug

No report.

Racial Equity – Ann & Tanay

No report.

Community Care – Christiana & Christina

As submitted.

New Connections/Listening – Michael & Tom

No report.

Protest & Movement – Jay & Einar

Einar—The Women’s March is returning to DC and suggested that LPMC should open the church to marchers and send members to it. He suggests discussing with congregation to get engagement.

Steinbruck Center Liaison – Tanay

No report.

Youth & Families Liaison – Betsy

As above.

Long Range Planning/Deficit Reduction Task Force – Patrick

As above.

Closing Reflection/Prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2019 at 6:30pm in the All Saints Room of Luther Place.

Submitted by: Doug Walter for Christina Davis