



Luther Place Congregation Council Minutes

March 12, 2019

Luther Place, All Saints Room

Present: Christina Davis, Tara Hogan, Christiana Lundholm, Betsy Mountenay, Michael Wendt, Kate Wulff, Pastor Karen Brau, Einar Olsen

Apologies: Doug Walter, Tom Randall, Ann Hill, Tanay Tatum-Edwards, Elizabeth Ellis, Jay Forth, Michael Sonnenberg

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm.

Devotion/Spiritual Practice

Christina led an exercise on letting go of anxiety and frustrations and expressing gratitude.

Agenda

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

Minutes

The January minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Betsy to accept the January 2019 Council Meeting minutes pending a correction of the date. The motion was seconded by Einar and passed unanimously.

Other Business

Patrick Callahan resigned his membership from Luther Place last month. Tara declared his council seat as vacant and shared the Executive Committee's recommendation to leave the seat vacant for the remainder of the Council year.

Pastor's Report

Written report submitted.

Pastor Karen offered in her report people to pray for.

The Executive Committee has been working on a draft for the temporary ARTSmart Summer Camp position and Pastor Karen has a potential candidate in mind.

The teenagers have expressed interest in being involved in the process of creating the New Spiritual Formation and Community Connections position.

Pastor Karen is working on initiating a conversation around children in worship and intergenerational worship.

A group of leaders are traveling to the ELCA Organizing for Mission Cohort meeting in Seattle at the end of the month.

There are 7 new members joining the Congregation the next Sunday and an additional 3 who will be joining in the near future.

Congregational Meeting Update

The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 19. The annual report will be prepared for the meeting. It will be scaled down from previous versions and each team will be asked to provide three highlights from their year and a photo.

Offering Counter Reminder

Kate discussed the need for Council members to be available to volunteer for this position. A Google Document will be created to allow members to volunteer for specific Sundays that work for them. If there is no one available and a Council member notices that the offering has been left on the alter they should attempt to find a staff member to help lock it in the office. A suggestion was made to attempt pairing it with other volunteer duties that Council members are already scheduled for such as Friend of the Feast or Usher/Greeter.

Decision Making Lenses

Pastor Karen passed out a document that included thoughts from the staff on the four lenses they identified to view our work through. Council and Pastor Karen offered stories on experiences with building the beloved community.

Our four main lenses are: We are Place based, racial equity, economic equity, and unlikely relationships.

Tara suggested that operationalizing this should involve having the Congregation affirm them and offering educational opportunities on them.

Spiritual Formation/New Connections

Michael Wendt updated Council on the new position. Conversations around staff transitions have led to the decision to create a new position, Director of Spiritual Formation and Community Connection. It will combine aspects of Kristen Kane's previous position and the previous Youth and Family Ministry position. Michael sought guidance on next steps and who should be involved. Betsy invited him to send it to her prior to the Personnel Committee's meeting next Monday.

Teams & Liaisons Updates

Personnel - Betsy

Written report submitted.

Committee conversations around their duties and Pastor Karen's led to the idea of creating steering committees made up of congregation members related to staff positions. Along this line it was suggested that the Property Committee could evolve to a Property Steering Committee to work with the sexton once one was hired. Steering Committees would involve members who have an interest and some level of expertise in the position they are steering.

The committee has asked Council's affirmation to move forward with this idea and start with the Steinbruck and Property Steering Committees as pilots. Christiana suggested a mechanism to ensure that that committees are working in unison with the Congregation.

Finance – Kate

Written report submitted. We are \$17,300 behind in offering for the year but are ahead on budget, mostly due to ARTSmart and Steinbruck Center income.

A motion was made by Christina to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Betsy and approved unanimously.

Property

Written report submitted.

Membership – Ann & Elizabeth

Written report submitted.

A motion was made by Christiana to welcome those listed in the report into membership. The motion was seconded by Betsy and approved unanimously.

Stewardship

Tom Randall has an idea to send out a letter and a pledge card to execute the Stewardship campaign. Letters will be sent physically and also mention that pledges can be entered electronically on FellowshipOne. It will also include information on what donating in different ways means.

The Council affirmed that this is direction the Committee should move in as far as a campaign. Pastor Karen will do a Lenten sermon on money and resilience.

Engagement – Christina & Doug

No report.

Racial Equity – Ann & Tanay

No report.

Community Care – Christiana & Christina

Written report submitted.

New Connections/Listening – Michael & Tom

Report above.

Protest & Movement – Jay & Einar

Written Report Submitted.

Steinbruck Center Liaison – Tanay

No report.

Youth & Families Liaison – Betsy

No report.

Long Range Planning/Deficit Reduction Task Force

Written Report Submitted.

Closing Reflection/Prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2019 at 6:30pm in the All Saints Room of Luther Place.

Submitted by: Christina Davis, Secretary, 2018-2019