



Luther Place Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2020
Luther Place, All Saints Room

Present: Tara Hogan, Amanda Lindamood, Joan Hay, Kate Wulff, Jay Forth, Doug Walter, Tom Randall, Joan Hay, Jay Forth, Cathi Jones, Mike Wendt, Elizabeth Ellis

Apologies: Pastor Karen Brau, Einar Olsen, Caroline Eayrs, Emma Northcott

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

Agenda

A motion was made by Tara to approve the agenda for the January 16th meeting. The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

Minutes

The minutes were distributed electronically via our google group prior to the meeting for the December 19th Congregational Council meeting.

A motion was made by Tara to accept the Council Meeting minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

Congregational Meeting

The meeting is January 16th, 2020. The Executive Committee met and determined to continue our pilot time with a new agenda sequence for meetings, that was introduced at the August meeting. The current agenda includes the Finance reports, the Devotion, Committee Reports, preparation for the Budget Meeting and Leaders Retreat, and the President's Report.

2019-2020 Teams and Liaisons—list reflects signups for the 2019-20 Year

The focus of reports has been clarified to spotlight key highlights, support requests, and concerns.

This month, all committees were asked to provide solely written reports, with the exception of finance. Brief verbal updates were shared.

Finance - Kate + Tom (Chair)

The finance report was approved with no objections. A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Doug.

Ultimately, the 2019 Congregational Giving Goal was exceeded at the end of the year. A surplus of 120,000 dollars was accrued due to staff vacancies and earnings from the Steinbruck Center.

Personnel

Doug highlighted that the personnel committee did not meet this month.

Property

Sarah submitted a written Property Committee report. She indicated in person that the committee had met by phone to set norms, clean up their list of members, begin to create a timeline for building projects and search for an hourly contractor. Highlights include that Sarah is now overseeing big project bids, and an alarmed door has been added to the basement exit.

Stewardship

This committee is setting up time with Pastor Karen to consider adopting a lens of sufficiency to their approach and congregational messaging.

Community Care

The last two Sundays Community Care has met. They are currently looking for additional members, and considering qualities and skills that may be needed.

Remaining teams submitted reports via email.

Long Range Planning Vision Reserve Fund

A motion was proposed to ask Council to put aside 10% of revenue generated from Long Range Planning efforts into a reserve fund. The Finance committee seconded this proposal. Mike made the motion within the meeting, Doug seconded it, and Council passed this motion unanimously.

Devotion/Spiritual Practice

As a part of the new agenda sequence, the placing of the devotion and check in was moved to the middle of the meeting, following committee updates. There is a new intention to link the devotion with the area of discussion that is the focus for the meeting.

Following a few minutes of silence, Tara led Council in a breath prayer. Two handouts were distributed to open a discussion on the distinction between deciding versus discerning using excerpts from Susan Beaumont. This was tied to the focus of the Leaders Retreat, examining identity, context and values in service to discerning our congregational purpose in 2020, and in the context of a liminal time.

The question was raised, what are the important decisions for us to decide as a council?

President's Report

Tara used this section of the meeting to share the agenda for the Budget Meeting on January 26th, and to describe the role of council members the day of. That agenda consists of the following sequence: Faith Formation—a shift from Multigenerational to Intergenerational, Budget Presentation, Hiring Update, and Steinbruck Center and N Street Village Land Covenant Updates.

Roles were designated to all present council members before shifting to a discussion of the upcoming Leaders Retreat on February 8th that all Council are expected to attend. An overview of facilitation, agenda and prework were presented, with an emphasis on extending invitations to congregational leaders and teams.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm, following a one word check in and the reciting of the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for at 6:30pm at the All Saints Room on February 20th, 2020.

Submitted by: Amanda Lindamood, Secretary, 2019-2020