

3/5/2017

The Church Council meeting was called to order by President Zenon Wojcik at 11:16am in the ERC Library.

Members present: Zenon Wojcik, Kim Stien, Julie Poquette, Tara Johnson, Grace Johnson, Elecia Oleson, Greg Granlund, Claire Granlund, Steve Erickson and Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones.

Member absent: Sally Gavin

The opening prayer was given by Pastor Lori.

The Secretary's Report from 2/12/2017 was presented and a motion was made by Greg and seconded by Claire to accept the report.

The Financial Report was presented by Tara, and a motion was made by Kim and seconded by Julie to accept the report. For month of February, income was \$8,535.78 and expenses were \$13,949.91, for resulting net deficit of \$5,414.13 for February. Year to date net deficit is \$6,604.96. Larger expenses for the month of annual insurance premiums and a laptop computer for Pastor Lori. Per Jacob Gapko's announcement after service today, ULC Foundation will give gift of \$4,000 to University Lutheran Church. Suggestion to keep a spreadsheet for tracking amounts used from John Peterson's bequest, assuming those amounts are used after the amounts previously in the accounts have been expended. Would like to include as part of the Annual Report and presented at the Annual Meeting.

Status of Council member terms:

Zenon – term is up

Kim – becoming President

Greg – term is up, willing to be on ballot again

Elecia – already completed remainder of Kevin McInerny's term; middle of current term and will stay on

Grace – term is up, willing to be on ballot again

Steve – in middle of term; will stay on

Julie – in middle of term; will stay on

Sally – in middle of term; will stay on

Claire – term is up; not clear if willing to be on ballot again

Ministry Reports:

1. Outreach: Grace indicated latest hosting at Beacon House went well; first time ULC has not needed assistance from Beacon House staff to fill hosting spots. No students were available to assist with Beacon House this time. Community Table calendar – available to view on computer but not available on smart phone. First available Sunday/next time for ULC to host is Sunday, May 21.
2. Worship: Julie stated there have been email discussions and ministry is hoping to meet next Sunday to discuss how to compensate James Li for future piano playing. James prefers not to pay for another 3 credit course/internship. Suggestion to create a scholarship, but complications since would need to offer to everyone who wants to apply for it. James wants to stay on for the summer and next full year. He is not playing piano for Newmann anymore. Old hymnals for disposal – how could we recycle the remaining books?
3. Stewardship: Online giving (Vanco, Thrivent Choice and credit card giving) averages between 25-30% of total offerings. Discussion of logistics of online giving. Amount of offerings through March historically have been indicative of what rest of year will look like. Offerings falling a little behind 2-3 years ago. Suggestion by Kim to track attendance and get summary of giving by giving unit (without names), periodically remind people of online giving.

4. Parish Life: Things are going well, Carol Rudd has been a big help. Steve will look at recruiting more people to assist.
5. Education: Dates set for "From Conflict to Communion" conversation with Lutherans and Roman Catholics. Document can be downloaded from ULC website. Starting planning for 500th anniversary of Reformation.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Lori is busy but things are going well. Looking at how to shape Campus Ministry and congregation, to serve campus.

Ash Wednesday services went well, maybe smaller number of ULC people than in the past.

Will take week of vacation after Easter – going to Germany. She has supply pastor in place for that time. In process of buying house in Eau Claire. Next Sunday, slide show of her trip to the Holy Land.

Annual congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 30. Each ministry should put a summary together so they can be distributed by April 23.

Due to Eau Claire Marathon coming by ERC on Sunday, May 7, service will be held instead on evening of Saturday, May 6 at ERC.

President's Report: Considering setting up a suggestion box or other method for anonymously submitting questions to ULC regarding the transition to capital membership in ERC. Need to confirm who was on ERC Board at time of earlier transition almost 10 years ago. Mike Herrick, Brad Poquette and Jim Massey listed as possibilities, in addition to Greg Granlund.

Old Business: None

New Business: Steve happy to see people responded in responsible manner to article discussed last meeting.

How are we going to increase giving or number of people who can give? Lori commented that sense of "regular" attendance at church has decreased – previously was twice a month, and now some people consider "regular" to be once a month.

Encouragement to extend invitations to people and discussion about how become comfortable with doing that, as a process. Emphasis on faith journey. Entry points are important because worship is not necessarily interactive and can be intimidating for newcomers. Second visit by new person is important because person came back for a specific reason. Idea of "exit interviews" for those who leave ULC to get feedback about what is no longer working for them. Pointed out there is a difference between those who decide not go to church anymore vs those who decide to go elsewhere. Bring ideas to next meeting for growth. Student numbers are as good as they have ever been; some cyclicity.

Speaker on Thursday, March 9, through Interfaith Worship Services - Gahda Ghazal. Informal meet and greet

Short discussion of the book/movie *The Shack*.

Next Meeting:

Closing prayer given by Pastor Lori.

Meeting adjourned at 1:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Johnson, Financial Secretary