

ULC Council Minutes
August 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Kim Stien at 6:30 p.m. in the ERC library. The following members were present: Kim Stien, Pastor Lori, Sue Diel, Karen Eisenbarth, and Chuck Gavin. The following members were absent: Gary King and Anthony Windau. Pastor Lori led a bible study based on Mark 14: 3-9, "The Anointing at Bethany." In this passage, the disciples are critical of a woman who chooses to anoint the head of Jesus with very costly oil, saying that the money should have instead been spent helping the poor. Jesus responds that he is grateful for her kindness to him and that she has anointed his body beforehand for burial. The passage provokes thought about how we arrive at important decisions regarding use of our resources. Carrying out the mission of Jesus must be our most important consideration. Pastor Lori then led the group in an opening prayer. The secretary's report of the July meeting was approved as written.

Action Items

1. Transition - The ERC Board will meet on August 29, when ULC's return to Capital Membership should be formally completed.
2. Appointment of two members to the ERC Board - Rick Olson and MJ Brukardt have agreed to serve as ULC's representatives on the ERC Board. Therefore, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to appoint Rick Olson to a two year term and MJ Brukardt to a three year term, in order that their terms of office would not end in the same year. A letter will be drafted to the Newman community to announce ULC's newly appointed representatives. Since ULC's constitution does not specify how ERC Board representatives are to be selected, in coming months consideration should perhaps be given to incorporating our procedure for making these appointments into the constitution.
3. Piano replacement - The new piano will be delivered shortly, coming in at a total cost of \$15,000; ULC's share of this cost will be \$6,000. ERC funds have recently been expended to pay for a new telephone system and to complete the installation of a new security system, so fund raising will be needed for the piano purchase. How to proceed with this fund raising was then discussed. A two month funding push this fall, which should emphasize the integral role of the piano in our worship, will hopefully help us to meet ULC's dollar commitment by Thanksgiving. ULC members must be informed that any shortfall in reaching the \$6,000 goal would mean that the balance remaining would have to be paid from the congregation's contingency funds. Kay Scharn, who has played the new piano and likes it, will be asked to speak to the congregation on the next two Sundays regarding the need and importance of this purchase.
4. Balcony repair - Two engineers and two architects have stated that the ERC balcony is structurally sound and safe to support its current size and patterns of usage. If certain improvements were undertaken, such as adding risers to improve visibility, this would add both weight and floor space to the balcony area and would necessitate "shoring up" the balcony's structure. Estimates at this time are that the work could cost up to \$150,000. This issue will be discussed at the ERC Board meeting on August 29.

Ministry Reports

"Thankfully Worship" - The ministry is currently planning the Confirmation Service which will be held this fall.

"Gracefully Welcome" - As we prepare for the imminent return of the college students, this group is engaged in planning many activities, including two picnics. The official "Welcome Back" picnic with Newman will be held on September 9.

“Joyfully Serve” - Via e-mail, Pat Wojcik announced that there will be one service opportunity event scheduled for each month this fall. The events are as follows: August - Beacon House on August 30 through September 1; September - Hike for the Homeless on September 29; October - “God’s Work, Our Hands” on October 14; November - Beacon House; December - Toy Drive

“Learn and Grow” - Chuck Gavin reported that the feedback from the Forum on the ELCA’s “Draft Statement on Women and Justice” was very positive and that thank you notes have been sent to each of the six women who presented their stories. Elecia Oleson will be reimbursed for the expenses incurred for the picnic at Carson Park for the Sunday School families and teachers. Sixteen adults and children attended the picnic. The ministry hopes to schedule a joint Forum with Newman in the fall involving Julie Carr who is the head of “Campus Harvest”, the on-campus food source for students.

Financial Report - Kim Stien presented the highlights of the financial report. The trend of monthly deficits in the neighborhood of \$3,000 continues. The abbreviated financial report will be filed with these meeting minutes.

Total July Income - \$8,170.14

Total July Expenses - \$11,436.31

Total July Deficit - \$3,266.17

Pastor’s Report - Pastor Lori reported that she is attempting to schedule visits with individuals on the ULC membership list, beginning with ones that she has yet to encounter in her two years here. Scheduling these visits has been difficult. Though church attendance has been stable over the past three years, several individuals on the membership list are rarely, if ever, seen. The discussion then turned to stewardship in general, and how a culture which fosters wise use of money, time, and other resources can be created within a congregation. It was felt that the education of our members will have to be a major part of creating such a culture, perhaps by utilizing at least a semester of emphasis. Because of many years of outside funding, there often seems to be a lack of commitment to the work at ULC. Each of us needs to prayerfully ask, “Who am I? What do I have? How can I use my resources for our work here?” More discussion will follow on this important subject.

President’s Report - See Action Items

Old Business - None

New Business - None

The Council will meet next at 11:15 a.m., after worship, on Sunday, September 23. After closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Eisenbarth, Secretary