

ULC Council Minutes
October 22, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Kim Stien at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside lounge of the ERC. The following members were present: Kim Stien, Pastor Lori, Sue Diel, Karen Eisenbarth, Chuck Gavin, Greg Granlund, Gary King, Anthony Windau, and Pat Wojcik. No members were absent. Pastor Lori led the group in a discussion regarding the meaning of the Third Article of the Creed: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." In Luther's explanation, he seems to be saying that we are saved by God's grace and that God empowers us, through the Holy Spirit, to be the hands to accomplish God's work on our earthly home. There is a question about whether the explanation directs that we are all to be a part of one church, though the passage certainly stresses a church of believers acting together in community. Pastor Lori led the group in an opening prayer. The secretary's report of the September meeting was approved as written.

Action Items

1. Piano Fund Total - According to Sara Bryan's e-mail, as of today, 10/22/18, ULC has exceeded the fund-raising goal of \$6,000 needed as ULC's portion of the cost of the new sanctuary piano. This is indeed a happy outcome, and ULC's share will be paid to Newman by the end of the month.
2. Wednesday Night Ministries Meeting - The common monthly meeting night for the Ministries of ULC appears to be going well. At the meeting in November, Pastor Lori will meet individually with each team to conduct an informal evaluation of how well this system is working.
3. Confirmation date and event preparation - The Service of Confirmation will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 28. A cake has been ordered, and a reception will be held following the worship service. The Council approved Eylsa Barnes, Emma Johnson, Gabe Smith, and Anthony Windau to be confirmed.
4. Budget meeting preparation and scheduling - Since the congregational meeting to approve ULC's budget for 2019 will be held in December, preparatory work on the budget process must begin now. Gary King will provide leadership for the preparation of next year's budget, and he will be aided by Sue Diel and Greg Granlund from the Council, as well as an additional ULC member who is not serving currently on the council. Three names were suggested to fill this role. The ULC ministries will submit their fiscal needs to Gary, and then he will meet with the people listed above and construct the proposed 2019 budget. The budget as a whole must come to the council for approval before it is presented to the congregation. The proposed budget will be sent to council members prior to the November council meeting, and any line by line study of the document should be regarded as homework to be accomplished before the meeting. The council will need to approve the proposed budget at its November meeting. A few general thoughts about next year's budget were offered. Gary felt that a 10% cut in discretionary spending in all areas where it could safely be accomplished would be a wise decision that would help to share the burden of reducing expenses. Pastor Lori expressed the view that the pay given to ULC's musicians should not be cut. It is already less than competitive, and since next year ULC will need to hire both a pianist and a choir director, it is desirable to be able to offer what others are. She also believes that substitute musicians are not being paid adequately.
5. Pastor's compensation package - Pastor Lori left the meeting briefly as a preliminary discussion occurred regarding her compensation package for 2019. Final approval of her compensation package will occur at next month's council meeting when the entire 2019 budget is approved, prior to presenting it to the congregation.

Ministry Reports

“Thankfully Worship” - Linda Erickson reported that the ministry met on October 17, and plans for the Service of Confirmation and the reception afterward were finalized. A Reconciling in Christ service will be held in February, and Pastor Lori will invite the RIC coordinator to attend and speak to the congregation. A combined Thanksgiving service with Spirit Lutheran and Grace Lutheran will be held at 6:00 p.m. on November 21 at Spirit Lutheran Church. A 6:30 p.m. service is being considered for Christmas Eve, which falls on a Monday this year; Linda will consult with Sara Bryan to find worship assistants. Future ideas for worship services include a Service of Healing and a Spring Camp service.

“Gracefully Welcome” - This ministry also met on October 17. Carol Rudd reported that three fellowship coffee hours following worship are planned before the end of the year. These will be held on October 28, November 18, and December 9. Carol will meet soon with the Newman staff to plan Finals Week Hospitality for the first semester. She further stated that nearly all food for Wednesday evening meals has been donated; only one item in September has been expensed so far.

“Joyfully Serve” - Pat Wojcik announced that ULC will be serving at Beacon House on November 8, 9, and 10. Planning has begun for the Christmas toy drive which will be held from December 6 through 15. Elecia Oleson is providing a service learning opportunity for UWEC students; students may complete service learning hours by reading to students at Sherman School. Pat also stated that feminine hygiene products have been placed in the ERC bathroom as a service project.

“Learn and Grow” - Chuck Gavin stated that efforts continue to schedule Julie Carr, who heads “Campus Harvest” to present at an adult forum at ULC. Scheduling has been difficult because of Julie’s commitments at Spirit Lutheran, where she is a member.

Financial Report - Greg Granlund presented the October financial report, and a complete report will be filed with these meeting minutes.

Total September Income	\$10,169.68
Total September Expenses	\$11,121.83
Total Monthly Deficit	-\$952.15
Year to Date Deficit	-\$9,592.97

Pastor’s Report - Pastor Lori reports that the year is going well with the students, though only about 4 or 5 new Freshmen have been attending ULC on Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings. The faithful attendance of many juniors and seniors continues. She stated that 475 people volunteered at the “God’s Work, Our Hands” event in October. Pastor Lori noted that a new computer has not yet been purchased for Sara Bryan’s use, and the need is still very present. Several celebratory events will be upcoming over the next several months. In January, ULC will mark 30 years as a Reconciling in Christ community; in April, Pastor Lori will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of her Ordination; and next fall, the LSA will celebrate its 85th birthday. Pastor Lori will be on vacation from October 29 to November 12.

President’s Report - Kim Stien reported that ULC’s average attendance in September was 62. See Action Items.

Old Business - The next meeting of the ERC Board will be on November 15. The issue of possible repairs to the ERC balcony will be discussed at that time.

New Business - None

The Council will next meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 12. As a closing meditation, Pastor Lori read from the words of Martin Luther, "Instructions for an Evening Blessing." The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Eisenbarth, Secretary