

ULC Council Minutes  
December 16, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President-Elect Sue Diel following Sunday morning worship at 11:20 a.m. in the library at the ERC. The following members were present: Sue Diel, Pastor Lori, Karen Eisenbarth, Andrea Gapko, Chuck Gavin, Greg Granlund, Gary King, Carol Rudd, Anthony Windau, and Pat Wojcik. Kim Stien was absent. Pastor Lori asked for prayer requests and then led the group in an opening prayer. The secretary's report of the November 12 council meeting was approved as written.

#### Action Items

Ministries Meetings in December and January - Due to a shortened schedule because of Finals Hospitality Week and the Christmas/ New Year's break for students, there will not be a joint ministries meeting in December. Adult ministry members will meet in January without the student representatives who will still be on break; a date has not yet been set for this meeting.

Follow Up Thoughts Regarding Annual Budget Meeting - ULC members ratified a budget for 2019 at the congregational meeting on December 2; attendees at the meeting felt that the meeting and budget discussion went smoothly. Greg Granlund expressed that it would be wise to purposefully consider how to logically shift and reorganize some of the reporting categories on the financial reporting statement. He also thought that this purposeful consideration should occur over the course of 2019 and should not be done under the pressure of preparing a budget for 2020 next November. During 2019, ULC will also begin evaluating the temporary changes to the congregation's organizational structure which were put in place last spring. If these changes are put in place permanently, this could also change some financial reporting categories.

November ERC Meeting - The ERC Board met in November and discussed the possibility of completing improvements to the structure of the balcony area. At the present time, chairs have been removed from the balcony to reduce the seating capacity to 70 persons. This additionally decreases the weight load on the balcony's infrastructure and meets the fire safety requirements. This option, at no cost, is considered by some to be all that needs to be done. Another view is that a complete balcony restructuring is needed, at a probable cost of \$150,000 to \$200,000. Another architectural opinion will be sought, which can perhaps suggest a compromise position that meets all safety needs, allows for more usage options in the balcony area, and comes in at a lower cost than the above-mentioned figures.

January Council Meeting - The next meeting of the ULC Council will be held following worship on January 13.

#### Ministry Reports

"Thankfully Worship" - No Report. It was noted that Pastor Lori would not be at the last worship service of the year; she and Carol Rudd will be accompanying six college students to Memphis, Tennessee for the LSM-USA National Gathering. The worship service on December 30 will be a "Service of Lessons And Carols."

"Gracefully Welcome" - Carol Rudd reported that arrangements are in place for Finals Hospitality Week, and that Wednesday evening meals through the first semester have been covered well. Most planning has been completed for "Reconciling in Christ Sunday" in February.

“Joyfully Serve” - Pat Wojcik reported that the joint Toy Drive with Newman was a huge success. The number of families served was less than in the past, but the family groups were larger. The ministry team met recently to discuss their recommendations for benevolence distributions for 2018. Their recommended benevolences for this year are as follows: (1) Luther Park - \$150; (2) Feed My People - \$500; (3) Campus Harvest - \$350; (4) Community Table - \$500; (5) Beacon House - \$500. By group consensus, the Council approved these recommendations for benevolence distribution, and Andrea Gapko will process the checks next week.

“Learn and Grow” - Chuck Gavin reported that Julie Carr, who heads Campus Harvest, will present an adult forum at ULC on a January Sunday following worship. A final date for her presentation has not yet been set. The purpose of the presentation is to increase awareness of the large scope of Campus Harvest; it is about much more than food.

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

Total November Income	\$15,023.65
Total October Expenses	\$21,484.08
Monthly Deficit	\$ 6,460.43

The bottom line for ULC’s 2018 financial picture is a budget shortfall of approximately \$20,000. When the financial reporting for 2018 is completed, Greg Granlund will begin studying the reporting categories on the financial statement document and suggest some logical and positive changes. He will report further concerning these matters next month.

Pastor’s Report - Pastor Lori discussed an item in the November financial statement under the category “Designated Gifts”. This gift, in the amount of \$2,000, was given by an anonymous female donor who was deeply affected by the tragedy in Chippewa Falls involving the Girl Scouts. Her wish is that the gift be used to impact the community in some positive way. Consideration is currently being given as to how best to accomplish her wishes; if anyone has an idea concerning use of this funding, please contact Pastor Lori.

Pastor Lori stated she will designate, for tax purposes, a housing allowance figure of \$1,000 per month. The Council gave its official approval for this action, and a Council member with clearance to handle financial transactions will sign off.

Because stewardship is a function of the ULC Council, Pastor Lori led the group in a discussion regarding our congregation’s need to make stewardship a primary focus in 2019. Changes to the structure of the ELCA’s campus ministry in recent years have created the need for more local financial support; new members could help provide some of the needed financial resources. Further, stewardship obviously includes many areas other than money, such as the gift of time and talents. It was felt by the group that an effort to educate the congregation about the many aspects of stewardship was warranted. To this end, educational efforts aimed at examination of the entirety of stewardship will be planned prior to or during Lent, possibly involving temple talks, conversation together, and a book study. By May, Pastor Lori felt that a Stewardship Campaign Team should be in place to plan for an extensive effort in the Fall; the Council agreed with this concept.

As a part of ULC’s commitment to enhance our level of stewardship, there should be vigilant evaluation of our entire ministry here. One way to accomplish this evaluation would be to undertake a Quadrennial Review; ULC last completed one of these in 2013. This method of evaluation is currently being retooled because of changes to campus ministry structure.

President's Report - See Action Items. ULC's average attendance for the month of November was 56.

New Business - None

Old Business - None

Pastor Lori led the group in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Eisenbarth, Secretary