

ULC Council Minutes

June 4, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Sue Diel at 6:33 p.m. in the library of the ERC. The following voting members of the council were present: Sue Diel, Audrey Jaenke, Karen Eisenbarth, and Gary King. Katie Hackworthy was absent. The following non-voting members were present: Greg Granlund, financial secretary; and Lori Ruge-Jones, pastor. We began with Bible study, prayer, and ULC's guiding principles.

New Business - Action Items

ERC Projects - The renovation of the ERC's balcony area will likely occur toward the end of June or in early July. The work will be done from above, so use of the main worship space will be undisturbed. An anonymous donor has generously offered to pay the entire cost of this renovation project.

The ERC Board desires to replace the windows in the building's rear wall facing the river. A bid has been received at a total cost of \$27,235; this includes the replacement of the windows along the stairway up to the balcony and in the narthex entryway between the stairs and the sanctuary doors. As capital members, ULC's 40% share of this project would be \$10,894. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to financially support the completion of this building improvement project. Understanding that deferred maintenance is more costly in the long run, ERC capital members have expressed a willingness to spend about \$10,000 per year on maintenance and improvement of the building. ULC's portion of this expenditure would be \$4,000. The ERC Board is considering that the window replacement project would constitute the building improvements for the next two years. Four weeks will be required to make the new windows and then the replacement will have to be assigned a place on the work schedule. Thus, it is possible that the project might not be completed until next year.

ULC Century Club - ULC did not have a Century Club fund drive for a few years when the congregation was not a capital member of the ERC. Such a fund drive would be an excellent way to raise money for the window replacement project, as well as other needed building maintenance in the future. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to conduct an annual Century Club fund drive in late fall to aid in raising funds needed for ULC's portion of building maintenance costs or special projects. In the past, the Century Club drive was a joint effort by all ERC capital members, but at the present time, ULC and Newman will conduct their fund drives independently. A letter explaining the purpose of the Century Club drive and announcing that it will be an annual event will be prepared in the fall and sent to all congregation members around Thanksgiving. The letter will include a stamped reply envelope. It was decided that the new bank account established last month with the interest earned during the "buy out, buy in" process will be where funds collected for building improvement, including Century Club donations, are placed.

Appointment of Education Coordinator - Pastor Lori has asked Jill Granlund to serve as the coordinator of the "Learn and Grow" ministry, and she has accepted. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to appoint Jill to this position.

“Positive Action” Donation - The council discussed how to use a \$2,000 gift, given to ULC with a call for “positive action”, following the deaths involving Girl Scout Troop 3055. Since food insecurity is a major problem on this campus, most expressed opinion seemed to favor finding an effective way to use the donation to help with this issue. International students have a particularly difficult time during the winter break since they rarely go home, and the campus food service provides only one meal a day. Julie Carr, who heads Campus Harvest at UWEC, states that students who receive food there often don’t know how to prepare the food they obtain. Perhaps cooking classes could be organized on campus, or crockpots purchased to give to students. Grocery cards could also be purchased for distribution to students. Pastor Lori will talk with Julie Carr regarding practical and effective ways to alleviate food insecurity for the student population; after their conversation, a more informed decision can be made regarding use of this donation. Also, Pastor Lori will update the donor of the funds regarding the council’s thought process to date about the best way to utilize her gift.

Secretary’s Report - The secretary’s report of the May 13 council meeting was approved as written.

Financial Report - Greg Granlund presented the May financial report, and it was accepted by the council. The complete financial report for May will be filed with these minutes.

Ministry Reports - There were no ministry reports because none of the ministries have met since the May council meeting.

Pastor’s Report - Pastor Lori reported that the committee organizing the celebration marking the 85th anniversary of the LSA has met, and Jacob Gapko is making fantastic progress in locating past LSA members. The planned celebration will be held on UWEC’s Homecoming weekend, October 13. People will be encouraged to make \$85.00 donations to the ULC Foundation in honor of the LSA.

Pastor Lori noted that the council could have some personnel issues to consider in the future, including hiring a choir director and a pianist when Eli and Andrew have graduated. She is also considering the possibility of hiring a student “communication intern” who could handle some of ULC’s technological office tasks.

President’s Report - See Action Items.

Old Business - Possible dates for a council retreat focused on goal setting and bridge building were discussed. Sunday, July 14 is a strong possibility, and Pastor Lori will contact the ministry leaders regarding their availability on that date. The retreat would begin with lunch, following Sunday worship.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. with the ULC Mission Statement.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Eisenbarth, Secretary