

**Congregation Council Minutes
Faith Lutheran Church
November 11, 2024**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m., Lorelee Daily, Council President.

Attendance: Lorelee Daily, Lori Ashenfelter, Kim Kennedy, Darryl Anderson, Em Antal, Nicole Vincent, Wendy Gajarsky, Pastor Jean, Joe Antal and Tom Peyton.

Guests: John Weisend, Judy Vernon

Devotions: Pastor Jean

Review of Minutes: Nicole motioned to accept the October 21, 2024 minutes; Lori seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Staff Reports:

Treasurer: Report submitted. John explained that the miscellaneous fund expense of \$26,157 was due to recategorizing. Kim motioned to accept the treasurer's report for review. Darryl seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Pastor Jean Hansen: Report submitted. She reminded everyone to attend the lunch and devotion collaborative events.

Eric Jezewski: Report submitted after the meeting by email.

David Simpson: Report submitted.

President's Report: Report submitted.

Old Business:

Ohio Mission Trailer, Items: Lorelee reported the sale of the Ohio Mission trailer for \$1000. The other items will be available to the congregation in the Spring to purchase and/or be donated. The Garden Team will also be offered the tools.

Finance Committee: Progress has been made with Kim Kennedy and Linda Weidrick agreeing to join the Finance Committee. Kim will oversee the counters. There is still a need to identify a Treasurer. Lorelee made a motion to appoint these new members to the committee. Nicole seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed. It also was reported that Mike Herchenroeder has indicated his willingness to be on the Committee; confirmation from him is needed.

All the paperwork has been completed to hire our new Financial Manager, Rebecca Shull and a meeting with Judy Lee is taking place on November 13, 2024.

A candidate was interviewed for IT, but his skills were not a good match. Andrew Fligor is following up with companies to hire as possible consultants.

Council members indicated who would attend the Vision Session for Collaboration with HTLC on November 21, 2024 at the NEOS Office.

Acknowledgement and thanks will be made for John Weisend, Judy Lee and Keen Lee on November, 24, 2024 during worship.

New Business:

Stewardship Report, Finalize Budget: John Weisend presented the stewardship report and the current 2025 Budget Comparisons. There are 121 pledge cards (similar to last year). The pledged amount is \$424,656. An estimated 40 hours at \$150/hr. was budgeted for the IT Consultant. Judy Lee will continue to be paid into next year (\$2000 budgeted) to help transition the new Financial Manager. A history of Care and Nurture from 12/23/19 to the present was shared to understand the reworking of the budgeted amounts. It was discussed to restore the budget for Open M to \$600. Joe made a motion to keep the estimated repairs for the Resurrection Window in the budget. Tom seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed. There were changes for the preschool that were reviewed. Kim made a motion to accept the proposed Budget for presentation at the Congregational Meeting. Nicole seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed. John also pointed out the Donation Acceptance policy effective August 1, 2024.

A report was presented from the Nominating Committee with all positions being filled. The Faith Endowment has 3-year and 2-year terms; the Nominating Committee will be asked by Lorelee to identify who will take which time frame.

The Annual Meeting agenda was reviewed.

Judy Vernon requested the Resurrection Stain Glass Window be repaired/preserved. The replacement cost of the window is quite expensive. The proposed contract was made available with necessary repairs costing \$16,926. The assessment by Associated Crafts/Willet Hauser was completed for free.

The December Council gathering will be an Advent Dinner on December 16, 2024 in the Youth Room hosted by Pastor Jean who will provide the food. Nicole will take care of the decorations. It was decided to have the first business meeting (after the Annual Meeting) at the annual retreat on January 25, 2025. Officers will be elected at that time. Current officers will continue to serve until new officers are elected.

Ministry Area Reports

Care and Nurture: Wendy Gajarsky

A total of \$2000 was donated from the Soup Supper. Faith Endowment is willing to give an additional \$2000 for 10 more local food pantries. Joe made a motion to approve Faith Endowment's pending approval of this donation. Lori seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed. Tinsel and Tea is happening on December 7, 2024. The next meeting is January 16, 2025.

Communication: Lorelee Daily

Lorelee shared that Troy Kozee reported that work is being done on the steaming equipment (Fellowship Hall).

Celebration and Memorial Courtyard: Nicole Vincent

No report.

Faith Endowment: Lorelee Daily

No further report.

Growth and Learning: Em Antal

No report.

Ministry/Staff Development: Kim Kennedy

No report.

Operations: Darryl Anderson

Finance committee report submitted. They discussed continuing with reviews and not an audit. They are not expecting insurance proposals until January. No insurance carrier will cover the preschool as an LLC unless it is in a separate building.

Outreach: Tom Peyton

No report.

Preschool Board: Lori Ashenfelter

The Board Meeting is being held tonight.

Worship: Joe Antal

There will be one service on November 24, 2024 at 9 a.m. followed by the Annual Meeting. On December 22, 2024 there will be one service at 10 a.m. for Christmas Music Sunday and on December, 24, 2024, there will be services at 2 and 8 p.m. Lorelee discussed possibly putting up a banner (sign) to market our special services. Kim will follow up.

Prior to adjourning, Em reminded Council that the election results have created concerns for members of the LGBTQ+ community and a safe space is needed. The hope is for our congregation to be more attentive to being affirming and reflecting our RIC designation.

Adjournment/The Lord's Prayer/Next Meeting:

Joe motioned to adjourn. Kim seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. Next business meeting is January 25, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the Northeastern Ohio Synod Office.

Minutes from December 3, 2024 via e-mail

The Faith Endowment Committee made three requests. Lorelee made a motion on December 3, 2024 for \$465.00 for the DLM Breakfast with Santa; \$210.00 to purchase a banner to welcome people to the Christmas Eve services, particularly focusing on LGBTQ+ worshippers; and \$2000 to be used for the Interfaith Justice Programming. For the third request, the funds will come from the Faith Endowment Committee 2025 budget. Tom seconded the motion. All voted by email in favor. Motion passed.