

Congregational Council Meeting
October 21, 2024
Minutes
Faith Lutheran Church

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m., Loralee Daily, Council President.

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

Devotions: Pastor Jean

Review of Minutes: Joe motioned to accept the September 16, 2024 minutes; Lori seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Staff Reports:

Treasurer: Report submitted. Tom motioned to accept the treasurer's report for review; Kim seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Pastor Jean Hansen:

Report submitted. Pastor will take a vacation day on October 31 and from November 5-10, 2024 with Pastor Rick leading worship.

Eric Jezewski:

Report submitted.

David Simpson:

Report submitted. Dana Singer's grant request for \$5000 for Loads of Faith was accepted for in-person presentation the Akron Community Foundation.

President's Report:

Report submitted. Loralee encouraged everyone on Council to attend the Vision Session on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at the Northeastern Ohio Synod Office.

Old Business:

There was follow up on the Ohio Mission supplies; the Johnsons have purchased and acquired the items they requested. Plans will be made concerning the rest of the items in January.

It is the Council's responsibility to identify a new Treasurer and two committee members for the Finance Committee. It is the Committee's request that the Treasurer be in place by December 1, 2024.

New Business:

Mark Watkins and the Finance Committee recommend hiring Rebecca Shull for the position of Financial Manager. The proposed budget was based on \$50 per hour for 10 hours per week, which is an estimate; she will charge different fees for bookkeeping and for consulting. The actual amount cannot yet be determined. She will help transition to new software. There was discussion on signing checks since this is something that Rebecca will not do. Tom made a motioned to hire her as a contractor worker. Joe seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Digital Ministry team members were not willing to be on call or responsible for particular IT needs, but would help in a short-term or support roles. Pastor communicated with Andrew Fligor and he is willing to help with the transitioning with Keen Lee. There is a need to hire an individual IT Manager or a company to oversee IT and technology needs. A candidate may be interviewed this week. Troy Kozee is contacting companies to gather information as well.

A review of changes from the 2024 budget for the 2025 first-draft budget was completed by John Weisend, including all the revenue and expense changes. Discussion was held about details for the IT Manager so an amount can be included in the budget. Discussion was held regarding the Preschool becoming an LLC. The total Budget comparisons were reviewed including transferring of funds.

Pastor recommended hiring a new nursery assistant, Aurora Delgado, working every other week from January-May, alternating with Bella Wesley. Lorelee motioned to hire her. Lori seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Communication concerning the collaboration with HTLC was discussed. Pastor will write an update regarding the collaboration for the November Beacon of Faith and it will be a topic on the agenda for the Annual Meeting. Future events include two midweek luncheons and devotions on November 13 and November 20, 2024 at FLC for both congregations' members. There is Advent program on December 8, 2024 at HTLC in which both choirs will participate. The next step in the collaboration will be a Vision Session led by Pastor Jonathan Stufft, Assistant to the Bishop, on November 21, 2024 with both Councils, Faith's Collaboration Team and others leaders from HTLC. The initial goals are to strengthen the relationships of the two congregations for the sharing of ministries and staffing, but not at this time combining of the two churches.

On November 24, 2024, there will be an acknowledgment of Judy Lee, Keen Lee and John Weisend during worship. Pastor shared that we do not have guidelines for gifts. It was agreed to give \$100 for John and \$300 for the Judy and Keen. Lori agreed to get cards and gift cards.

Ministry Area Reports

Care and Nurture: Wendy Gajarsky

The FFF Team Soup Supper was held on October 18, 2024. Family Game night will be Friday, November 15 and Tinsel & Tea will be Saturday December 7, 2024. They discussed a tentative schedule for 2025. Next meeting is November 7, 2024.

Communication: Lorelee Daily

Triad will update the content management system. Digital Ministry is beginning to work on new streaming equipment for the Fellowship Hall.

Celebration and Memorial Courtyard: Nicole Vincent

Report submitted. They are working on the irrigation project.

Faith Endowment: Lorelee Daily

Pastor made a request for the Interfaith Justice Series of \$2000.

Growth and Learning: Em Antal

There will be children's program activities for the Reformation service.

Ministry/Staff Development: Kim Kennedy

No further report.

Operations: Darryl Anderson

Small roof has been repaired. Water and heat sensors have been installed. It was agreed to table the request to preserve the Resurrection stained glass window.

Outreach: Tom Peyton

No report.

Preschool Board: Lori Ashenfelter

No further report.

Worship: Joe Antal

This Sunday is Reformation Sunday at HTLC with Pastor Jonathan Stufft as guest preacher.

The Annual Meeting will follow one service on November 24, 2024. The Christmas Music Sunday will be December 22 with one service and Christmas Eve Worship will be on December 24, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Adjournment/The Lord's Prayer/Next Meeting: Lorelee motioned to adjourn. Em seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Next meeting is November 11, 2024.

Submitted by Wendy Gajarsky, Council Secretary