

Council Meeting Minutes Feb 23, 2014

Present: Bryn Knatterud, Kris Olsen, John Davis, Lee Diedrick, Maren Schultz, Lon Erickson, Janine Hughes, Interim Pastor Steve Molin and Assoc. Pastor Kris Kurzejeski

Devotion by Steve Molin.

Ash Wednesday is coming. Think about: imagine you have died, standing before God. God says you don't belong here. Our faith is dependent on God welcoming us home. Lent is a journey, and life is a journey home. May we recognize we need God's grace to stand in front of him, and we needed him to send us a savior.

Agenda - Bryn

Agenda was circulated and asked for any changes/additions; approved with minor changes.

Approval of Minutes

January minutes were approved with a few minor corrections.

Pastor's report: Steve Molin

Synod Assembly, May 16-17 (Fri and Sat).

Agenda includes election of new bishop.

Hoping for at least one member of council to come. Kris Olsen, Janine, and Lon said they would attend, Maren is a maybe.

Sara Spohr's installation is Apr 6 (Sun only). Peter Rogness, current Bishop of St. Paul Synod, will preach. A congregation member asked Steve about possibility of adding an Early childhood ministry coordinator – cradle to 2. Kim noted it was a hole in our staff. Steve asked council for permission for he/Kim to explore options. Janine made a motion to that effect and seconded; approved unanimously. Steve thanked all for participation in farewell to Megan.

Financial Update – Kris Olsen

Finance Committee didn't meet because of weather. Kris went over report w/ Laurel. Currently in black net ~\$13,000 as of end of Jan, 7 months into fiscal year. Kris led council through brief discussions about a couple of the numbers, but no major concerns were voiced. Steve noted Jan was the 3rd month in a row where giving has exceeded last year. Some discussion about whether we should have "Finish Strong" run; majority sentiment was to have it as a fellowship event, but separate it from stewardship.

Visit from Synod Representative – Gary Medin

Gary Medin, Sr Pastor at Incarnation Lutheran Church for ~20 yrs. Synod sends representative to visit all congregations to get feedback on 4 questions:

Q1: What do you want synod to know about what RLC is doing as hands and feet of Jesus?

Serve children and youth well, and programs are well-known. Music ministry is a community draw and has good links into the music community

Q2: Where is God active and alive in RLC + community

Through Adult ed., Mission & Outreach – 10% of all receipts, active in healing some pain at RLC, the sense of love, fellowship, and faith partnership in the congregation

Q3: Have we had to reprioritize budget, and how did we do that?

Yes. This year's budget was set equal to receipts from prior year, compared to large budget increase in prev yr, when RLC ended in the red. Haven't always re-filled open positions right away, and in some cases rearranged duties. Some discussion around moving from prior level of 3.5 pastoral

positions, down to 2.5 with Sara. Hoping to maintain level of ministry, but requires continuing conversations about staffing levels and stewardship.

Q4: Anything else RLC wants synod to know?

Thanks for working with council last year, and for interaction in call for Sara.

Ministry Team Updates

Mission & Outreach – no update

Stewardship Cmte – no update

Life Ministry-reviewed events: Sock Hop. Cooks of Crocus Hill, Ladies' Lock-In. Spring/Summer events-for next year being discussed.

Home Groups – Keith Gilbert resigned, and concern about burn out among some home group leaders.

Youth and Family – no update

Nominating Cmte—reported difficulty in recruiting for VP, which is part of 3 yr cycle into President.

Discussion ensued with multiple points; noted that any changes would require changes to Constitution and/or Bylaws. Council decided to ask Nom Cmte to provide some recommendations for them to consider.

Endowment – did not meet

Call Committee—wrapping up, documenting call process

Review of Roundtable Discussions

135-150 attendees, great discussions, congenial and without raised voices. Noted that this attendance is almost 30% of giving units per month.

Largest outcomes were: Ind – Welcoming and Affirming (70%), RLC Welcoming but uncertain (68%).

Results will be posted on church website.

Council reviewed themes and impressions observed by table monitors during the discussions. This led to fairly lengthy discussion. Concerns voiced that council decisions or congregational votes could split congregation, the same concern that table attendees had. Struggle is that, no matter what course is chosen, someone may be upset and leave. Some concern was voiced that individuals may not think the church is welcoming unless they are also affirming. One suggestion was to leave decision up to pastors with additional requirements of pre-marriage counseling and connections to RLC. No final decision was made, and the topic will be discussed again at next meeting.