

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting  
March 9, 2023

**Present:** Jared Steinberg, Bill Schmidt, Mary Berg, David Westlund, Van Kellogg, Brian Grubbs, Kim Reid, Andrea Theisen

**Not Present:** Dan Lobejko, Jeff Palm

**Ex-officio:** Pastor Valerie Brown-Greenly

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Jared Steinberg

**Devotion and Prayer** by Pastor Valerie Brown-Greenly

**Secretary Report:** The minutes of the February 9, 2023 meeting were presented. A motion to approve made by Van Kellogg, second by Andrea Theisen, motion passed.

**Pastor's Report by Pastor Valerie Brown-Greenly:** Ash Wednesday Service was canceled due a snow storm. Pastor Valerie, who was in Egypt, was in communication with area churches here that canceled so followed suit. A personal letter concerning Lenten service attendance and finances was sent to the congregation via the Pastor's usual Wednesday E-mail Message. Pastor Valerie met with representatives from Faith and received materials about building a columbarium.

**President's Report by Jared Steinberg:** Time was spent getting ready for Spring and Lent. Also met informally with Amber Lange, the real estate agent.

**Treasurer's Report by David Westlund:** A copy of the Treasurer's Report was made available and discussed. Some items were above budget, others below budget. The church received a generous gift of \$25,000 which helped greatly. It is a strong start. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Brian Grubbs, second by Kim Reid, motion passed.

**New Business:** Discussion was held concerning Out Lot A, which is zoned commercial-mixed. There have been informal discussions with Amber Lange, a real estate agent, who has been in contact with the City of Coon Rapids. At the Annual Meeting in January the Congregation voted have the Council explore the sale of the lot. It was felt that it was time to proceed to Phase 2 and formalize our relationship with Amber Lange. A motion to have the Church Council enter into a formal relationship with Amber Lange was made by Andrea Theisen, second by Van Kellogg, motion passed.

**New Business:** Report by Bill Schmidt, Chair of the Garden Advisory Board which met recently. The organization, "We All Need Food And Water" has terminated their partnership with the Board. It was decided by the Garden Board to discontinue the gardens for this year for several reasons, including consideration of the water and maintenance costs for which there is no line item in the Peace budget, the possibility of selling the property which would be unfair to the gardeners, and the need to make it a more pleasing view from University Avenue. A letter from Jan Dubats was read suggesting other options for the garden. The Garden Board recommends that the garden be left fallow for this year while they work on ridding it of weeds and on seeding some areas. A motion to accept the Garden Board recommendation to leave the Garden fallow was made by Van Kellogg, second by Brian Grubbs, motion passed unanimously. A motion to acknowledge the withdraw of "We All Need Food And Water" from the Garden Board, that we are in agreement with the withdraw, and that the Council will move forward to manage the Peace Garden was made by Kim Reid, second by Van Kellogg, motion passed.

Dawn Pape, who held a lifetime position on the Garden Board, has resigned. A motion to acknowledge her departure from the board and to remove the lifetime position from the board was made by Van Kellogg, second by Andrea Theisen, motion passed.

**Old Business:** One more person is needed on the Endowment Board. Several people were suggested. Bill Schmidt will contact them.

We would like to have a Council member embedded in each Board. Bill Schmidt is on the Garden Board, Brian Grubbs is with the Men of Peace, Kim Reid volunteered to be with the Preschool Board. These people would represent the Council on the board but have no vote.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Motion by Bill Schmidt, second by Van Kellogg, motion passed.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Berg, Secretary