

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting
December 12, 2024, 6:30pm

Present by zoom: Bill Schmidt, Kim Reid, Greg Loberg, Ginger Walker, Van Kellogg, Brian Grubbs, Jared Steinberg, Dan Lobejko, and Nicole Harris

Not present: Jeff Palm

Ex-officio: Pastor Valerie Brown-Greenly

Call to Order: The zoom meeting was called to order by President Bill Schmidt.

Prayer by Pastor Valerie Brown-Greenly.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the November 14, 2024, meeting were reviewed online. Greg moved to approve the minutes, Van seconded, motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

Thanksgiving food baskets were delivered and Christmas baskets will be delivered soon. Also, 3-5 families come to the church daily from the Coon Rapids and Blaine area to receive food.

The congregation has been very generous in providing the items needed for these ministries. Three funerals were held in the last month with another scheduled for January. Pastor also attended the funeral of Lisa Nelson's father.

Several new couples have recently joined the church.

Twins were baptized in early December.

Reminder to greet new faces so we reflect the welcoming nature of our congregation.

A different Liberian church may be joining us in the building.

Vicar Jesse Hodges will continue to be with us until May.

President's Report:

Two additional minor changes to the Bylaws have been proposed for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in February. See "Old Business" below.

Treasurer's Report by Greg Loberg:

Reviewed the 'Statement of Activities November 2024' and the 'Statement of Financial Position as of November 30, 2024' on screen.

Jared moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Dan seconded, motion passed.

Old Business:

In order to decrease the church's property insurance premium by \$400, the Finance Committee raised the deductible from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Discussion about two more revisions to the Bylaws to be recommended to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Feb. 9, 2025.

Recommendation of Bylaw Change:

The Endowment Fund Board is responsible for developing a distribution plan by the first quarter of the year for general restricted funds. If the Endowment Fund Board is unable to meet and develop a distribution plan, an alternative is needed to facilitate timely distribution of funds.

This amendment does not alter the distribution of named and other restricted funds which are distributed according to signed gift agreements that require a clear description of the donor's intent. Reference Bylaws Part X. 4E and 6D.

Greg moved that we add the highlighted sentence below to Bylaw Part X 6:

Part X. Peace Endowment Fund

6. Distributions

C. Suggestions for distributions may be made by any Peace Lutheran Church member. The Endowment Fund Board shall develop an annual distribution plan by the end of the first quarter of the year for recommendation to the Congregation Council. If the Endowment Fund Board is unable to meet during the first quarter, the Endowment Fund Treasurer and at least two other members of the Endowment Fund Board shall develop a distribution plan for recommendation to the Congregation Council. The Congregation Council shall review the recommendations and give final approval before distribution occurs.

Nicole seconded; motion passed.

Recommendation: The Peace Lutheran Church Council recommends to the congregation that this amendment be approved.

Recommendation of Bylaw Change:

The Preschool Bylaw Part XI 8 currently states that checks are to be signed by the Preschool Treasurer. This is too restrictive. The Preschool checking account has three approved check signers. The Bylaws should recognize this and allow all approved check signers to sign checks. For check amounts over \$3,000, Peace has a policy to have two signers sign the check. Amending the Bylaw to state two signers are required for checks over \$3,000 clarifies the wording.

Greg moved that we accept the following highlighted change to Bylaw Part XI 8:

Part XI. Peace Lutheran Preschool
Plan of Operation

8. The Preschool treasurer shall work with the bookkeeper or other appointed congregation staff member to maintain complete and accurate financial accounts, records and reports for the Preschool in accordance with Peace Lutheran Church accounting practices. Preschool checks shall be signed by the Preschool Treasurer or an approved check signer for Peace Lutheran Church. If the check is over \$3,000, two check signers are required per Peace Lutheran Church policy. Other official documents relating to the Preschool shall be co-signed by the Advisory Board chair and the Congregation Council President.

Van seconded, motion passed.

Recommendation: The Peace Lutheran Church Council recommends to the congregation that this amendment be approved.

New Business:

Nicole suggested having the Peace Venmo QR code posted at the Men of Peace breakfasts and the coffee/treats gatherings after worship.

Discussion about having a full ballot for all openings on the church council and other committees before the annual meeting.

Upcoming Dates:

Next Council Meeting will be by zoom on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

Van moved to adjourn, seconded by Kim, motion passed.

The Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginger Walker, Secretary