

First Lutheran Church Vision Council Meeting Minutes March 30th 2023

6PM, First Lutheran Church, adult education meeting room

Members Present: Dianne Loufman, Pastor; Mary Dontje, Treasurer; Beth Storaasli, President; Mark Boyce, Vice President; Bob Ardren, Councilor-at-Large; Tyler Klingfus, Councilor-at-Large;

Members Absent: Amy Merchant; Secretary, Julie Samuleson-Ministry Board Chair,

Guests Present: Cindy Monroe; Welcoming and Affirming Task Force

- Presented a plan for 2 sessions on RIC education.
- Sumlee Beede and Kathy Hermes: Teen Health Center Coordinators at Lutheran Social Service of MN will give an informative presentation explaining LGBTQIA+ terminology, the importance of pronouns and if time allows inclusive restroom signage. This will be April 30th between services in the Parish Hall
- “A Presentation and Conversation on Biblical Texts that have Informed the Church’s Understanding of Human Sexuality in the Modern Era.” presented May 21st by Dr. Erik Heen at Noon
- Logistics to figure out: lunch planning, potential video of presentation while avoiding youth and congregational discussion.
- It is noted that Gloria Dei church will have an afternoon conference on May 7 celebrating 25 years of RIC designation with added educational opportunities.
- Motion made, Bob Ardren, second George Rennan carried motion for the plan.

Reconciling in Christ

- Designation will be approved by June 25th (Pride Sunday)
- Motion from Tyler Klingfus, Second from Bob Ardren. Unanimous Approval.

Approval of the Agenda

- Mary first. Carolyn second. Agenda approved with unanimous approval

Property Committee

- Plans for improved meeting schedule, status book for equipment, and a planned cleaning schedule based on use patterns.
- Committee did not have a formal report
- Lighting is an additional \$6000 for LED updates and fixing the unusual blinking light over the sanctuary.

Book Study

- Mary Dontje presented on the book study from “The Comeback Effect” with emphasis on “Details”
- She indicated that intentional planning avoids last minute changes that are not necessary, keeps a personal connection and avoids getting stuck due to difficulty with staffing or organization
- Consideration of an online usher group to help with Digital ministry as a detail.

Approval of the Minutes

- The January/February minutes were accepted as posted.
- Motion to approve by Carolyn Karsell, Second by George Rennan

Treasurer’s Report

- Offerings are down (March of last year we were at 78%). YTD we are still okay.
- Radio Streaming support is down.
- There were two insurance payments made in March
- Property is higher due to two power bills paid in March. Also continued work is being done on lights. Once all of the light work has been completed related expenses will be moved to Capital Improvement.
- YTD total expenses are fine
- 3 Year Comparison is in line with total percentages. Nothing is currently unaddressed.
- We are working on a plan to get Debt Reduction (formerly known as TFR) paid down; update to come at the next meeting.

Pastors Report

- NEMN synod move is complete, and the office hours are Tu, We, Th, 9-3,
- Worship on Holy Week is extensive and includes the new presentation of Bach
- April 23rd is Earth day and has some unique opportunities in service expression.

Business

- The Call Committee is working to develop the Ministry Profile.
- Ann Beck is going to retire from her role as Pastoral Assistant. Will take a pilgrimage in May-June. While Ann is away, we will work to put together an appreciation gift.
- Vision Council has a role in reviewing the membership list. This includes (but is not limited to): going through the name badges. Looking at giving records. Worship attendance, and communion records.
- The annual meeting is June 11, with one service on the summer schedule, planning for a breakfast prior to the service for the meeting to include Donuts and Bacon.

Visioning

- Visioning for the end of the year includes more attention to hospitality. Items of note include: stepwise pattern of parking and sidewalk; greeter to guide, ushers to seat, gifting to new persons (such as a small loaf of banana bread), thinking about beverages other than coffee such as a water cooler (with lemons, limes or cucumbers)
- Important to obtain names and electronic addresses of new attendees to allow follow up communication. These communications allow listening opportunities and may develop interest in our shared mission, and insights to the desire for small group ministry which continues to show the best connection to serve new members
- Developing the Evangelical Spirit should be a goal for all members, and it too focuses on the “Details” to know people, listen to them, see them and avoid missed opportunities. This step is more difficult during summer services in the park. Some focal groups include families with young children, young adults, and men’s groups to ease the Northern Minnesota “shy culture.”

The meeting was adjourned with prayer

Next meeting is Thursday May 4th