

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
September 13, 2021

**Present**

Bill Alrich (President), Chris Bettin (Secretary), Tim Hohulin (Treasurer), Sandy Becker (Stewardship), Tammy Daugherty (Communications), Phil Hartweg (Safety), Kelly Parratore (Faith Formation), Joe Parratore (Faith Formation), Mark Pedersen (Property), Debbie Rohla (Service), Deb Twaddle (Worship), Pr. Shelly Satran, Pr. Joe Yucha

**Call to Order**

- The meeting, which was held via Zoom, was called to order by President Bill Alrich at 7:03 p.m.

**Opening Devotions and Prayer**

- Joe Parratore

**Approval of Minutes**

- **MOTION** (Phil/Sandy): To approve the minutes of the Congregation Council meeting held on August 11 with one correction. (Carried)

**Consent Agenda**

- **MOTION** (Tim/Joe P.): To accept the reports of the Faith ministries and staff. (Carried)

**Financial Report**

- Treasurer Tim Hohulin reported that August regular envelope giving was up \$16,000 vs. prior year giving and \$12,400 (19.5%) vs. budget. Year-to-date regular envelope giving is above prior year-to-date giving by \$17,500, but below budget by \$17,600.
- Total revenue is \$28,000 below budget year to date due to lower special envelope giving. Net (loss) year to date is \$5,300 below budget.
- The Rainbow fund balance through August was \$25,400 vs. \$21,900 at the end of July. However, after reviewing the budget for the coming school year (September 2021 to May 2022), Rainbow Board Treasurer Tom Harty and Rainbow Director Eileen Glynn are predicting an \$8,000 budget shortfall.
- Sandy Becker (Stewardship) asked where the Lutheran Youth Choir Scholarship for Music Instruction funds will be located in the budget. Tim responded that the scholarship funds will be in a separate dedicated account that doesn't show up on the monthly report.

**Old Business**

***Worship Update***

- Pr. Shelly Satran reported that the education hour was back in full swing starting yesterday (September 12).
- She also reported that efforts are being made to close the gap between the education hour and 8:30 a.m. outdoor worship service, following requests from several members that this be considered. Due to the pandemic, worship services have been significantly shorter in duration than prior to the pandemic, creating the unusually long gap between the end of the early service and start of the education hour at 9:45.

### ***Roof Replacement***

- Mark Pedersen (Property) reported that work on the flat roof has been completed and inspection by the village is scheduled for September 15. The final invoice for the flat roof was \$24,000.
- Regarding the shingled roof, Mark reported that work is still in a holding pattern due to lack of response from the village engineer who has yet to determine whether Faith will need to come into compliance with new insulation requirements. Mark added that there is a “sliver of hope” that work on the roof will get done this year.
- Council is considering whether to add a maintenance agreement for the roof at an approximate cost of \$600/year. Such an agreement would extend the warranty on the roof from 20 to 25 years and include an annual inspection.
- Another area of concern is Faith’s air conditioning system which is nearing its life expectancy. Mark informed the Council that recently \$3,700 was spent to repair one of the smaller A/C units on the flat roof, and one of the larger units that cools the church office, which is only 6 years old, is already breaking down. An initial assessment of the unit indicates that an \$8,000 coil may need to be replaced.

### ***55 N. Park***

- Phil Hartweg (Safety) reported that the 55 N. Park project is still in “wait and see” mode with the village regarding the structural engineering report. Apparently, the inspection has been completed and the report will be delivered soon.

### ***Rainbow Place***

- Pr. Joe Yucha reported that the Rainbow budget has been passed by the Rainbow Place Board. He noted that Rainbow is much more stable financially than it was just a few months ago.
- A social was held for the Rainbow Board, director, and teachers with a lot of positive networking taking place.
- A “40 for 40” fundraiser to celebrate Rainbow’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary will launch in the next couple of weeks. Retired Pr. Paul Olsen is leading this effort, with a goal of raising \$40,000 for the preschool.

### ***Music Ministry Search Committee***

- Deb Twaddle (Worship) reported that the Search Committee considered multiple candidates but decided as a group to repost the position and continue the search for a new director of Music Ministry.

### ***Nominating Committee***

- Deb T. reported that the committee's work is proceeding on schedule.
- In August, the Council considered a proposal from Deb to use the "at-large" position on Council for a preschool liaison who would attend Rainbow Board meetings and report back to the Faith Council. The at-large position is coming open at the end of 2021 because the at-large safety position is no longer needed since the work charged to that position has been completed. The at-large preschool position would exist for a period of two years, after which Council would determine whether to continue the position. Council revisited Deb's proposal during its September meeting.
- **MOTION** (Deb T./Phil): To approve an at-large preschool position on Council to replace the at-large safety position. The at-large preschool position will be for a period of two years, at the end of which the position will be evaluated to determine whether it should be continued. (Carried)
- In the interim, Council confirmed the role of Joe Parratore (Faith Formation) on the Congregation Council and Rainbow Board in the interim. Joe will not vote on Board matters and will utilize the Board minutes for reporting to the Council on Board activities and decisions.

### ***Locking up the Building***

- The Council picked up discussion that began in August regarding who will be responsible for locking up the church building after services and events.
- Mark started a list of possible names, with additions from Pr. Shelly and Pr. Joe. Additional suggestions are welcome.
- A team of five individuals is being sought. It was noted by a Council member that "it is going to take *five* people to replace Floyd Johnson!" Thanks again to Floyd for his years of service!
- Mark will meet with Pr. Shelly and Office Administrator Eric Enskat to discuss procedures for locking up the building following an event or activities at the church and related details.

### ***Reconciling in Christ Initiative***

- Pr. Joe led discussion on Faith's Reconciling in Christ (RIC) initiative.
- It was agreed that Faith needs a "Welcome Statement" that is different from the Mission and Visions statements currently on the website. Consideration was given to

whether such a statement should use language that is all-encompassing or identifies specific groups.

- President Alrich indicated that the wording of the statement needs to *truly* welcome people to Faith Church.
- Pr. Shelly recommended that examples be sought from the ELCA and other church websites for ideas.
- Pr. Joe pointed out that the RIC does require certain specific groups to be identified.
- Discussion on this initiative will continue at the Council's October meeting.

### **New Business**

#### ***Scholarship Committee***

- Pr. Shelly reported that she met with committee members Rob Herbold (chair) and Sally Stauber to review scholarship policies and practices and to consider enlarging the committee. Council approval is required to add members.
- Scholarship committee members are appointed by Council for two-year terms with no stated term limits. Currently the committee is looking at ways to grow the scholarship fund.
- **MOTION** (Sandy/Tammy): To approve the addition of Carla Aufdengarten and Chris Bettin to the Faith Scholarship Committee. (Carried)

### **Closing Prayer**

- Kelly Parratore

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

Chris Bettin, Secretary