

**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES
FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

September 8, 2020

Present

Beth Sekera (President), Chris Bettin (Secretary), Jim Hall (Treasurer), Sandy Becker (Stewardship), Tammy Daugherty (Communications), Phil Hartweg (Safety), Mark Pedersen (Property), Debbie Rohla (Service), Chris Sorce (Faith Formation), Deb Twaddle (Worship), Pr. Shelly Satran

Excused

Rachel Sorce (Faith Formation), Pr. Joe Yucha

Guest

Jane Stroh

Call to Order

- The meeting, which was held via Zoom, was called to order by President Beth Sekera at 7:09 p.m.

Opening Devotions and Prayer

- Mark Pedersen

Council Check-in

- All Council members reported that they and their families are doing well and staying safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Approval of Minutes

- **MOTION** (Jim/Deb T.): To approve the minutes of the August 11, 2020, Church Council meeting. (Carried)

Consent Agenda

- **MOTION** (Debbie R./Tammy): To accept the reports of the Faith Ministries and staff. (Carried)

Financial Report

- Treasurer Jim Hall stated that there was “nothing exciting” to report; the budget is holding remarkably steady given the unusual circumstances of 2020.
- Jim also informed the Council that he is getting paperwork in order regarding the payroll protection plan loan forgiveness application, noting the possibility that the federal government may decide to automatically forgive loans under \$150,000 without support. Faith’s loan is for \$106,000.

Old Business

Glen Ellyn Food Pantry

- President Sekera reported that the outdoor concert to raise funds for the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry (GEFP) will take place on two nights to maximize donations, with the dates being October 8-9. The Village of Glen Ellyn is requiring that cars be parked three spaces apart, thereby limiting attendance at each performance.
- Construction of the GEFP building at 55 N. Park is delayed pending further discussions on the building permit. The village is requiring a sprinkler system to be installed because the building will be considered a commercial property. The estimated cost of the system is approximately \$200,000. President Sekera informed the Council that Paula Serfling Nugent of the GEFP is seeking approval of a variance from the village regarding the cost because it seems high and unwarranted given the use of the building.

Building Projects Update

- Mark Pedersen updated the Council on the various life safety and other projects under way at Faith, principally:
 - Revised architectural drawings for the fire safety construction have been submitted to the village. Faith is still awaiting word on the status of permits to begin construction.
 - The village consultants determined that the church does not have a problem with its ventilation system after all.
 - ESSE is scheduled to begin using the church building on September 14, which unfortunately is around when work could tentatively begin on the main floor restrooms.
 - Commencement of the life safety construction projects remains dependent on ordering the hallway doors, which will not occur until after permits are received.
 - The doors will be stained to match the existing woodwork.
- After the derecho that hit the Chicago area in August, shingles on the roof of the church needed to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$375. Mark reported that both the shingled roof and flat roof are showing wearing and tear, but primarily the shingled roof. For purposes of knowing what the church might be looking at in terms of cost to redo the shingled roof, Mark obtained an initial quote which broke down as follows:
 - Approximately \$75,000 to replace the shingled roof (primarily due to the extra labor to remove two layers of shingles)
 - Approximately \$32,000 to replace the flat roof
- Mark reported that the retention pond safety concerns have been addressed, and thanked Deb Twaddle for connecting with Faith's liability insurance carrier to make sure the church is taking the necessary precautions.
 - Caution signs now appear on all four sides of the retention pond fence.

- The gate is now locked. Mark indicated that while an adult could still access the pond by climbing over the fence, the primary concern is to deter children from attempting to enter the pond area.
- Phil Hartweg reported that the process of consolidating the multiple lots that comprise the church property and 55 N. Park is ongoing with the village. He noted that the village is requiring a minimum number of trees to be retained on the 55 N. Park property.

Church Reopening, Resumption of Services

- Pr. Shelly Satran informed the Council that services will remain outdoors at least through September. The pastors and staff are working on contingencies for returning to indoor services or just having services online when the fall/winter weather moves in.
- Pr. Shelly provided additional information regarding ESSE's plans for reopening. She noted that the plan presented by ESSE was not as thorough as the plan provided by Rainbow Place, with some important details still to be addressed, such as how ESSE will handle if/when a client contracts COVID-19 and how meals will be provided to clients.
- Highlights of the plan as received include:
 - A maximum of eight clients at a time will be allowed in the center (fewer than normal).
 - Social distancing and wearing masks will be required.
 - Clients will be spreading out for meals, possibly into multiple rooms.
 - Clients will not be allowed to roam the adjacent hallways or rooms.
 - Clients will enter through the center doors rather than the north doors.
 - Only clients will be allowed to enter the building; they will be met at the entrance by ESSE workers to escort them to the center.
- Pr. Shelly noted that "we are glad ESSE is opening, but we all impact each other so we need to know the full extent of their plans."
- She added that if construction begins on the main floor restrooms, ESSE might have to temporarily move to Luther Hall.

New Business

Safe Child Policy

- Chris Sorce and Pr. Shelly presented changes to the Safe Child Policy for the Council's consideration. Special thanks to Kayla Feil, Faith's director of Children, Youth and Family, for her work on the policy and summary document.
- The reason for the update was to bring the policy in line with recent changes to ELCA policy and state law regarding child safety. For instance, anyone who works for a church is now considered a "mandatory reporter" and is required to be trained in this role.
- Deb T. expressed concern about reporting procedure #2 in the Faith policy which requires a mandatory reporter to first report an incident to the senior pastor instead of placing the call directly to authorities and *then* informing the senior pastor. Chris Sorce agreed that Faith's process should mirror state law in this regard. It was agreed by the Council that his procedure should be amended accordingly.

- A question about whether chaperones for youth activities are considered mandatory reporters and need to go through the training was answered in the affirmative.
- The revised policy will be posted online when finalized.
- **MOTION** (Chris S./Deb T.): To approve Faith's updated Safe Child Policy pending amendment of the procedure for response reporting consistent with Illinois state statute. (Carried)

Nominating Committee

- Deb Twaddle presented the Nominating Committee's full slate of candidates for positions that will be opening up for the 2021 Faith Church Council. She reported that the process went very smoothly and members who were asked to serve were eager to do so.
- One position was awaiting confirmation dependent on whether the Council could adjust its meeting schedule to accommodate the member's work schedule. Council agreed to move its monthly meeting from the second Tuesday of every month to the second Monday, thereby resolving the matter. This change will not impact the Executive Council's meeting schedule.
- **MOTION** (Sandy/Chris B.): To accept the Nominating Committee's slate of Faith Church Council nominees to be presented to the congregation for approval at the Congregational Meeting in January 2021. (Carried)

Constitution Updates

- Guest Jane Stroh walked the Council through the recent revisions to the Faith Church Constitution. Jane pointed out that "95 percent of the changes were just language"; other changes concerned the numbering system used throughout the document, identification of items that are mandated by the ELCA and cannot be altered by Faith church unilaterally, etc.
- Pr. Shelly noted that the Mutual Ministry language has been removed from the revised constitution; however, the committee itself is not being "sunsetting."
- Jane reported that language in section C 10.08. which uses the term "aural" warranted much discussion by the Constitution Revision Task Force. She is checking with the Synod to determine the intent behind using this term.
- Final revisions to the constitution will be made based on the discussion at this Council meeting and any additional feedback. The document will be brought back to the Council for a vote at its October meeting.
- Pr. Shelly thanked Jane and the other members of the task force—Deb Hornell and Bob Sitze—for their dedicated service to update this essential document.
- Pr. Shelly also informed the Council that she inquired of the Synod whether the resolution that was approved during the summer for Faith to hold its Congregational Meeting remotely would also cover conducting the Annual Congregational Meeting remotely in January 2021, should the need arise. She was informed by Synod representatives that the resolution is undated and would hold for the January meeting as well.

Stewardship Kick-Off Video

- Sandy Becker thanked Tammy and Rich Daugherty for creating the Stewardship Kick-off Video.

Announcements and Reminders

- The next meeting of the Executive Council will be Tuesday, October 6, 2020, via Zoom.
- The next meeting of the Church Council will be Tuesday, October 13, 2020, via Zoom.

Closing Prayer

- Mark

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Chris Bettin, Secretary