

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Waconia, Minnesota**

Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 18, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Mission: To learn, serve and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Vision: To be a dynamic, energized worshipping community where all are growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, one another and those beyond our walls.

Inclusive Grace. Contagious Love.

Council Members	Role	Present	Absent
Richard Scott	President		X
Patrick Butler	Vice President	X	
Mary Fahrenkamp	Treasurer	X	
Jessica Hartmann	Secretary	X	
Rob Dansare	Building & Maintenance		X
Kristin Johnson	Worship & Music	X	
Jim Karstens	Stewardship	X	
Quentin Knaak	Social Outreach	X	
Aaron Kopel	IT & Communications	X	
Sue Monson-White	Connections		X
Sarah Wilson	Faith Formation	X	
Dale Peterson	Sr. Pastor	X	
Katie Escalante	Associate Pastor	X	

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Butler at 6:40 p.m.

- **Opening Devotions-** Pastor Dale Peterson
 - A reading from Ecclesiastes 3 – For everything, there is a season
- **Reading of Faith’s Mission & Vision Statement-** Pastor Dale Peterson
- **Get to Know the Staff-** Deferred until in-person meeting is possible.
- **Get to Know the Ministries-** Deferred

Standing Monthly Reports

- **Pastors’ Reports**
 - Pastor Dale Peterson

- The transition of the new council members has been complicated by the Covid-19 situation. It will take some time to get organized and get the new members oriented.
 - Special thanks to the Communications Team. They've been doing a great job with the virtual services and especially with the graduation senior recognition service last week.
 - The synod is providing services for Memorial Day weekend and the 4th of July weekends – which will give the Communications Team a break.
 - Special thanks to Kristin Johnson for helping to recruit two new Council members.
 - He is working with Richard Scott and the Communications Team to develop an update statement and “next steps” vision to let people know what the church’s plans will be with governmental restrictions related to Covid-19 easing up. This will include:
 - A church re-opening plan,
 - New policies and procedures,
 - The ability for some of the smaller committees and groups to meet in person if they are under 10 people – with a Zoom option as well for those who are not yet comfortable meeting in person or who have underlying health concerns that would make doing so unadvisable.
 - There has been no additional progress made on the exterior wood staining project.
- Pastor Katie Escalante
 - The small group ministry is continuing to try new virtual options. They have held two bring your own beverage women’s hang out events.
 - Pastor Katie continues to write her weekly blog, For the Love of God, which is available on the Website.
 - Teamwork has been the key to success over the last month. Staff has been busy:
 - Planning for summer events for the youth,
 - Communications Team – developing the virtual services,
 - Pastor Jim – continuing with visitation ministry
 - Pastor Katie asked all Council members to interact on the church’s social media outlets.
- **Treasurer’s Report- Mary Fahrenkamp/Secretary’s Report**
 - Nothing significant has changed since the report given at the congregational meeting the previous week.
 - Revenue continues to be unfavorable to budget, but expenses are also lagging due to postponed events – confirmation, mission trips, etc.
 - It is important to note that many of these expenses have only been delayed and the costs will be incurred later in the year if distancing restrictions are lifted.

- Net operating income is unfavorable year to date by \$6,000, which Mary notes is pretty good given the extraordinary circumstances of the last few months.
- The church did secure a Paycheck Protection Program loan under the CARES Act provisions. Mary is researching the requirements to have the loan forgiven.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report and the Secretary's report (April 2020 minutes submitted in writing) was made by Jim Kartsens and seconded by Sarah Wilson. There was no discussion. All approved and motion carried.

- **New Business & Key Topic Discussion**

- **Vote in Council Officers**
 - Sarah Wilson made a motion to elect Richard Scott as President, Patrick Butler as Vice President, Mary Fahrenkamp as Treasurer and Jessica Hartmann as Secretary. Aaron Kopel seconded. All approved and motion carried.
- **Vote in Council Members and Assign Ministry Areas**
 - Kristen Johnson made a motion to approve the following slate of Council Members and ministry areas:
 - Rob Dansare, Building & Maintenance
 - Kristin Johnson, Worship & Music
 - Jim Karstens, Stewardship
 - Quentin Knaak, Social Outreach
 - Aaron Kopel, IT & Communication
 - Sue Monson-White, Connections
 - Sarah Wilson, Faith Formation
 - Mary Fahrenkamp seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All approved and motion carried.
- **Project Updates/Wish List**
 - There has been no progress on the staining project.
 - Painting the HVAC and the Main sign – has not happened yet.
 - The IT team is looking at setting up livestreaming capability from the sanctuary to continue offering virtual services even when restrictions are lifted on gatherings.
 - Some people won't feel comfortable being in large groups for a long time.
 - People also like the convenience of being able to watch the service on their own time.
 - We might be able to get more people involved in worship if we could do a blended live (in person) and virtual service.
- **Transition Team & Call Committee Update**
 - Patrick Butler reported that the Transition Team met with Pastor Peterson from the synod the previous week and that Bishop Anne wants to meet with the team as well. The team is still in the due diligence and education

phase. They are learning the options and meeting every two weeks. Patrick will provide updates as they become available.

- The Call Committee will be formed as soon as the Transition Team figures out next steps and timing.
- **Ministry Updates**
 - Kristin Johnson reported that she has been in contact with Shelly Hilgers who has a library of pre-recorded music she's been compiling for use in the virtual services. Normally Shelly would be scheduling musical groups for the fall, but she's holding off for now.
 - Aaron Kopel noted that the first virtual congregational meeting went well with few glitches.
 - Sarah Wilson reported that the parent advisory group met and that the summer mission trips have been cancelled. Staff is looking into options to do an "at home" mission trip locally. BYG and Confirmation classes have both wrapped up for the year. VBX will be held in June as an at home family based program. Sarah also noted that as the parent of a high school senior, she very much appreciated the efforts of the Communications Team to put together the recognition Sunday video.
 - Quentin Knaak reported that the Love Inc. program will launch on June 1.
 - Jim Karstens reported that he church has seen an upward trend in giving overall, although there have been swings week by week during the last two months. Electronic giving has increased dramatically and now most weeks electronic giving exceeds the amount in envelope giving. Pastor Dale noted that the trend is not surprising since the church members have always been responsive if they new there was financial need. *
- **Other** - None
- **Closing Prayer-** Pastor Dale

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Jessica Hartmann, Secretary