

Congregational Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2021
Peace Center

Meeting called to order at 11:40 a.m. Opening prayer by Pastor Fuchs.

1. Vote on approval of revisions to Constitution & Bylaws:

Bob provided background information prior to the vote to approve the recommended changes to our Constitution & Bylaws. They were last reviewed 13 years ago. The benefits of reviewing them with each incoming Church Council and BOEs was discussed.

Notable revisions include changing the name of the Mission and Ministry Council to Church Council or Council. The powers and duties of the Mission & Ministry Council are unchanged. The age requirement for voting age was removed.

Discussion included reminding members that the Council meetings are open to the congregation. Please notify the Council President in advance if you have a topic for the agenda. If there is a human resources item, that portion of the meeting will be closed to congregation members due to confidentiality requirements.

Discussion about eliminating the term "male" in Article 12 of the Bylaws was suggested. Pastor Asher and Fuchs both recommended this be tabled for now, to focus on the issues PLC is addressing currently.

It was agreed the leadership also consider revision of language addressing the requirement to mail out suggested revisions (Const. - Article IX Amendments); the age of voting members (Bylaws - Article 3 Voting Membership)

It was suggested the words "if requested" could be added regarding members receiving a copy of the Constitution & Bylaws via mail.

Sarah Peterson made a motion to approve the suggested revisions to the Constitution & Bylaws; 2nd by George Moehring. All voted aye with one opposed. Motion carried.

After further consideration, the revised document will be sent to the District for approval as required.

2. Pastoral Care Transition Plan: Bob explained that Pastor Stefan Wismar, Executive Assistant to President Woodford attended a joint meeting of the Council and BOEs to inform them that there is a IIP candidate who may be available to accept a call in February. Pastor Fuchs explained the role of an Intentional Interim Pastor (IIP). A call committee will be appointed by the Council to proceed in reviewing this and any other candidates. The committee will consist of 7 people with no more than 2 being from the Council. Any member can nominate themselves or another member by submitting the name(s) to Bob. George Moehring made a motion to create a call committee for an IIP. 2nd by Ed Homan. Motion carried.

3. Update on Director of Youth Ministry: Lynn reported that the Elders and the Council met on November 8 with Sean Martens from the synod office. He provides assistance calling education and commissioned ministers. President Woodford is directing PLC to defer the process of calling a Director of Christian Education (DCE) until an IIP is in place. Sean's suggestion was to find a DCE that could assist on a limited term. He provided the names of 5 people including Jennie Asher (Pastor Asher's wife) who might consider assisting us. Sean suggested using volunteers as the other individuals would possibly be able to provide limited time and be more of a consultant rather than providing programming.
4. Update on Christian Education Director & Outreach Coordinator/Operations Coordinator Plans for maintaining Sunday School, youth programming, and mission efforts following Sandy Kephart's resignation were discussed.

The Human Resources Committee revised the Mission Committee job description and recommended reactivating this committee. It was not approved at the November council meeting but will likely be on the December agenda and be approved at that time. The operations component will be filled by a facilities manager. It will be part time position. It is posted on PLC website, in the bulletin, and will be in the Messenger. Closing date is December 1 but will interview sooner if there is a qualified candidate.

The Council approved Jennie Asher to oversee Sunday School and the Christmas program as a volunteer. Heather Pagel will teach release time. The remaining children ministry/youth programs are being reviewed. Sunday school teachers and available board members will meet Monday, November 22. Pastor Asher and Jennie recommend using curriculum published by Concordia Publishing House for Sunday School instruction. Consideration will be given to hiring a part time person to oversee the other Christian education programs.

Closing prayer by Pastor Asher.
Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Borka, Secretary

Bob Sylvester, President