

Congregational Meeting—August 8, 2021

Present: Bob Sylvester, Lynn Brown, Kevin Heikes, Chuck Jones, Shirley Uldbjerg, Barb Otte, Kathy Hochsprung, Robbie Peterson, John Lietz, George Quast, Doug Brown, Matthew Markgraf, Wayne Vinkemeier, Dale Schumann

Bob Sylvester called meeting to order at 11:10 A.M. and opened with prayer.

Bob began the meeting by sharing expected meeting protocol. He read scripture readings.

Anita Miller, chair of worship committee, presented worship schedule that will begin in the fall 2021 and also highlighted some of the results of the worship survey. Copies were available to attendees, in the church office, and on the church website. Congregational members shared some concerns about the contemporary service. Bob explained that PLC offered options for worship as people had different likes and dislikes. There were questions about how the Matthew 14 dinner was working and its purpose. It is an outreach to the community and also an option for those worshipping to have a meal together.

Bob highlighted the last page of the survey which listed numbers of people who are willing to serve in various ministries in the church.

He mentioned other concerns that people brought up in the survey that weren't directly related to the worship schedule. He stated that we weren't going to discuss those today and that people are welcome to attend Council and Elder meetings to share concerns.

Bob went through timeline of what has happened since November of 2020 in regard to what has been happening at Peace Lutheran Church. He began with talking about meeting held on November 23 between Robbie Peterson, Pastor Pasche, Pastor Woodford, and Troy Puckett, at which time Pastor Woodford told Pastor Pasche that he would need to decide whether he wanted "to weather the storm" or put his name on a call list. Date of January 5th, 2021, the elder meeting, was the date given to Pastor Pasche by elders to let them know his decision. Initially, Pastor Pasche indicated that he did not want the congregation to know his decision. However, some people did hear about it. At the February 14th worship services Pastor Pasche read a statement telling the congregation of his decision. Bob read the statement.

Recommendation from Pastor Woodford was for leaders to attend a six session Ambassador of Reconciliation bible study led by Dr. Johnson and Pastor Wismar. These took place in March. Next guidance given was to replace Pastor Bode as vacancy pastor with another vacancy pastor. Circuit pastor, Pastor Reed, met with Bob, Robbie, and Lynn to review several names that could fill this position. They selected a name and met with him, but after consideration, that vacancy pastor declined. We are waiting to hear back from the second vacancy pastor that Bob contacted.

After vacancy pastor signs a contract, next step is to develop a job description for intentional interim pastor to replace Pastor Pasche.

Questions:

People were asked if we were looking for two pastors or one. We are looking for someone to fill Pastor Bode's position as a vacancy pastor. Kevin Heikes clarified that we are needing to have Pastor Pasche's position filled by an intentional interim pastor to "clean up the house" before bringing in a permanent

senior pastor. Question was asked how long it would be before we had a permanent senior pastor. That will be decided by Pastor Woodford. People thought that this could go on for years. Bob reiterated the plan. Lee Uldbjerg asked if synod had someone on hand to replace Pastor Pasche. There are no guarantees but that is their plan. Question was posed what would happen with Wednesday bible studies. Bob said that was our hope for that to continue and would be negotiated with the interim intentional pastor.

Bob said that if people preferred to share their concerns with the Elders and Council members in a smaller setting that they can talk to Bob or Robbie and ask to be put on the agenda for those respective meetings.

John Lietz thanked everyone that helped with the garage sale and showed what PLC can do when we work together.

Bob also mentioned that we had formed a Human Resources committee chaired by Lynn Brown. All staff job descriptions have been reviewed and revised. Committee is currently working on revisions to the employee handbook.

Bob closed with prayer.

Submitted by:

Lynn Brown
Vice-President Mission and Ministry Council

Bob Sylvester
President Mission and Ministry Council