

*Approved by Council on June 30, 2014*  
**MINUTES**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Marlton, New Jersey**  
**June 2, 2014**

**Council Members Present:**

Pastor Overcash	Rebecca Keen (Learning)
Pastor Ballenger	George King (Missions)
Vicar Lauren Applegate	Steve Smith (Parish Life)
Peter Fong (Vice President/Youth & Family)	Bruce Easterly (Property)
Peggy Roberts (Secretary/Support)	Lisa Schaffer (Worship & Music)
Trish Suplee (Communicating the Faith)	Jessica Korhumel (Youth Representative)
Rafael Orta (Finance)	

**Council Members Absent:** Mark Duffy (President), Catherine Salender (Stewardship), Pat Holman (Social)

**Guest:** Kristina Orta

- **Council Devotions and Opening Prayers** were led by Peter Fong.
- **Approval of Minutes from Last Council Meeting**

A motion was made by Lisa, seconded by Trish, to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2014 meeting. The motion passed.
- **Ministry Updates**
  - Are there updates to the ministry reports circulated before council? none
  - Are there ministries that have an area of focus this month? none
  - Are there actions or guidance needed from council to support our ministries?

Trish reported that Link Hanson is stepping down as chairman of Communications Ministry and requested a meeting with the Pastors to discuss moving this ministry forward. Learning Ministry met yesterday and minutes will be forthcoming. Peter reported that Youth and Family meeting had a good discussion about what's happening and what can be done to energize youth ministry. There are five seniors who will be graduating this year. Bruce gave an update on neighbors damaged fence. The neighbor has redirected their sump pump away from our driveway but the fence has not been repaired yet. Rafael suggested sending a letter advising them that since the drainage has been repaired, we will send them \$500 when the fence is repaired.

- **Report on the Financial Health of the Congregation**

Rafael and Kristina Orta gave an overview of the status of pledging and current giving. Since our expenses are mainly fixed, we need to be creative in order to increase our income. The general activities of the church are not self supporting. Discussion continued on how to give this information to the congregation. It was suggested that a letter be included with the mid-year statement showing what we have done in the past six months and what we plan to do in the next six months. Bruce requested a current accounting of the various Memorial Funds. Kristina said that she would have this for the next meeting. A motion was made by Bruce, seconded by Lisa, to approve the April Financial Secretary and Treasure's Reports. The motion passed.

- **Special Session: Review action steps for Goals of the Congregation**

- Discussion of Short Term Focus Areas (May – September 2014)
  - ✓ Support the Retirement Committee's work and congregation's transition
    - Committee Report: Peggy reported that the financial goal for the mosaic has been met. The committee will have a start date from the artist next week.
    - Timeline sponsored by Council: The Pastors have recommended Aug 10 (Sunday) after worship and Sunday, Sept 14 between services for this event and if needed, Sept 21<sup>st</sup>. This should be a social time with finger foods; a time to share experiences and add them to the time line. During this time, people will also have the opportunity to be photographed with a message for Pastor Overcash.
  - ✓ Strengthen the financial health of the congregation: Pastor Overcash suggested doing another visual on the financial condition. Pastor Brett suggested a thermometer showing the number of people participating in servant events, another on the number of people using Simply Giving, etc. rather than financial information. Pastor Overcash suggested a goal of the number of people worshipping. It was suggested to start this on June 21<sup>st</sup> and requested Mark to again make the thermometers.
  - ✓ Take actions that encourage the young families of the church community to come back to Sunday School/Youth Group in the fall
    - Meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss Sunday School: Pastor Brett reported that the committee is reviewing curriculums and different formats. Sunday School would be based on a rotational and thematic model. Teachers will commit to only 3 weeks at a time and each age group would have a "shepherd" who would supervise the children but not prepare lessons.
    - Summary of Youth Group: Vicar Lauren was excited and explained the many engaging conversations she had with others working with youth. She stated that the same old thing is not working. It was recommended to create an atmosphere where young adults feel welcomed, supported and loved intentionally. She will be attending the October meeting which will be an intergenerational conversation.

- Annual (September 2014 – August 2015)

Goals were discussed and the list was edited. These will then be presented and the congregation will be asked to indicate their emphasis.

- **Old Business**

- Audit Committee Nominees: Rafael made a motion, seconded by Pastor Brett, that Kristina Orta, Jim Strangfeld and Link Hanson comprise the auditing committee.
- Renewed emphasis on Ministries of the Month: It was discussed that each ministry group should have a designated month to emphasize the purpose and activities of their ministry. It was felt that a coordinator is needed for this to succeed. Another questioned if this would take away from the time the committee will have to actually do the intent of the ministry. It was felt that it is more successful when people put their energy into a project rather than a year long commitment.

- **New Business**

- Witnesses from the Congregation:

It was mentioned by several members that the baptism information was not noted on the projection screen last Sunday. Pastor Brett stated that he is hearing that members are enjoying seeing Vicar Lauren grow and will be sad when she leaves.

- Pastors, Vicar and Director of Music Reports:

Pastor Brett is spending time planning for the time when Pastor Overcash is retired. He is rewriting how confirmation will be done in future; both curriculum and format. It will include a retreat. Pastor Brett is pulling out of Synod activities while he concentrates on the future of POP. He also noted that pay checks from the payroll service were not issued on time last month. Internal steps have been taken to remedy the situation.

Pastor Overcash is meeting with the Bishop on Wednesday about his transitioning out. He is focusing on the transition to his retirement.

Vicar Lauren stated that her highlight of the month was the youth event. July 27 will be her last Sunday at POP.

- Correspondence: Fred Wolf sent a card thanking us for praying for him.
- Building Use: The Executive committee already approved the use of the star room on Tuesdays starting June 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>, for O/A workshops.
- Transfers: none
- New members: We will receive Ruth Manning and Allison Shingleton into membership on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

- **Reminders:**

**Next meeting is June 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**

**Refreshments to be provided by Finance**

**Devotion leader will be George**

- **Closing Prayer was lead by Peter followed by Passing of the Peace**