

Approved by Council on March 27, 2017
MINUTES
CHURCH COUNCIL
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Marlton, New Jersey
February 27, 2017

2017 Council Members:

Pastor Brett Ballenger

Sharon Elliott (Vice president / Worship and Music)

Lisa Schaffer (Council Secretary/ Family and Education)

Laura Glatz (Recording secretary/ Building Community)

Lori Hartley (Addictions & Mental Health / Health Support)

Pauline Ahern (Addictions & Mental Health / Health Support)

Bob Price (Stewardship & Building Community)

Allison Shingleton (President)

Carol Herb (Family and Education)

Pam Hann (Social Missions)

Kira Ota (Youth Representative)

Liz Dietz (Finance)

Bill Dennis (Property)

Council Members Absent: None

Guests: None

- **Opening Prayers** – Meeting was opened 7:01 pm following the Faith 5 practice. Thank you was extended to Carol Herb for providing the refreshments.
- **Approval of Minutes from Past Council meeting:** Pauline Ahern made a motion to approve the minutes from the last council meeting (Jan 30, 2017). Carol Herb seconded. The motion passed and carried.
- **Ministry updates:** Each Ministry shared their Highs and Lows. Please see submitted Ministry meeting minutes for details regarding ministry activities.
- Report on the Financial Health of the congregation: \$15,251 in Excess as of Jan. 31, 2017. This is because many people give their pledged monies in the beginning of the year. This should not be looked at as a surplus of giving. The Eliminating Mortgage Campaign and the Mortgage Reduction are now on one line in the books and are both used to pay off the Mortgage. The Campaign is going well and we will have an update shortly so the congregation will be able to see the progress of this project.
- Witness from the congregation: Many people have heard positive feed back on the choirs, bell choirs and the individual performances of our guest musicians (who are often members of the church). Although the Epiphany Family event was attended by a smaller group this year, the event was greatly received and felt more intimate and relaxed. We will continue this tradition and try to encourage more families to attend this year.

- Pastor's report: No written report.
 - Declared Housing Allowance and Salary breakdown for IRS and Tax Purposes. Same as last year - \$50,000 for Salary and \$27,300 for Housing Allowance. Pauline will give to Mary Scout, Treasurer.
 - Getting ready for Lent and Soup Suppers. Theme for Lent Suppers is “Taking up Our Cross” and how we act on this and what it means to us.
 - Asking council members to bring three most important things POP should focus on as a church, to the Council Retreat, Sat. March, 4. This can be very general or very specific.
 - The Lutheran clergy signed a letter to the ‘editor’ in response to the KKK literature that was distributed in the surrounding area. The letter was worded in such a way that it is relevant to the current events of the destruction of the Jewish Cemeteries as well as the bomb threats to the Jewish community. Pastor Brett spoke with Rabbi Nathan and a few other Jewish leaders to let them know that we stand behind them and asked them to let us know if there is anything we can do to show our support.
 - Pastor Brett read a rough draft of a letter in which he was going to send to the local synagogues on behalf of the church.
 - The confirmation class will be recording the Gospel lessons throughout the season of Lent. The dramatic readings will be shown during the church service.
 - Sunday, March 5th will be Scout Sunday and we will have Temple Talks for BosniaIST.
 - Pastor Brett discussed the situation of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and how the situation relates to Prince of Peace and our Youth Protection policies and what we should have in place and to look into what may need updated. The time frame for this is Summer 2017.
 - Possible 1.5% bonus for all staff members, pending criteria set at Annual meeting, is met.
- Old Business
 - Door lock status - Sharon Elliott has been trained to operate scheduled doors in case of an emergency. There is a folder in the cabinet above the desk with detailed instructions for anyone to be able to follow and operated the locks and doors.
 - POP Yard signs – “Love is Greater Sign” Old Lutheran website has created a graphic which we would like to use for the lawn signs. The project has been approved up to \$1000 for signs. Laura is working on getting estimates.
 - Ad hoc Committee for Mortgage Elimination Campaign: Pancake supper has been planned and the confirmation kids will help make and serve the food. The supper is scheduled for Feb. 7th - Pancake, sausage, fruit, coffee, tea, fellowship 5 – 7:30 pm. \$86,000 by 12/31/16 – another \$10,000 down since then. Ministry will meet to update the church in the narthex. Committee excited about pancake supper. The MEC will be meeting again and will prepare an update – short explanation of money income.
 - Church management computer system: The older program “Shepherd Staff” has been migrated to the new CDM+ System. Laura is working on learning the new system.
 - NA request for building use: Per Oct 2016 meeting, Council will re-assess at the May 2017 meeting. The NA group has been meeting in the Triple Classroom on Wednesday evenings. No issues have been reported.

- New Business
 - It was requested at the Annual congregational meeting that the Treasurer and Financial Secretary reports should be made more visible to the congregation. The Finance Ministry will discuss ideas at Ministry Night.
 - **Audit Committee Nomination** – in house committee (within congregation) Does not have a number of how many people need to be on this committee – Council discussed possible nominees for the committee.
 - **Personnel Committee:** Subcommittee needs 6 members (President and one other council member, Sharon Elliott) Steve Smith, Karen Krueger, have been on the Personnel Committee for two years and are still eligible. Council discussed possible nominees for the committee.
 - **Synod Assembly, May 12 & 13, 2017** – 2 members plus Clergy. Congregation pays for fee of assembly and hotel. Sharon Elliott would like to be a voting member, Pauline Ahern would also like to go. Names were given of youth who may be interested in attending.
 - There is a **District Meeting** for the six districts and clusters for **Sunday, March 2, 2017**, in Magnolia, NJ at Holy Trinity. Pam Hann and Sharon Elliott offered to attend this meeting.
 - All approved monthly **Council Meeting Minutes** are posted in the hallway by the church office. There is also a link in the weekly electronic email which is connected to the POP Website for anyone to view the approved monthly Church Council minutes.
 - Request for Building Use - None
 - Transfers: Bob Gaiser has requested a transfer to Faith Lutheran Church, KY.
- Reminders:
 - **Next Council Meeting: March 27, 2017**
Bob Price will bring refreshments and devotions.
 - **Upcoming Events / Calendar Review:** Laura will send a Council Retreat Reminder email.
- Pastor led us in the Lord's Prayer followed by the Passing of the Peace.
- Meeting concluded at approximately 9:11 pm with a resounding thump from the President's gavel.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Glatz, 2017 Recording Secretary