



61 Route 70 East, Marlton, NJ 08053
Email: Lutheran@popmarlton.org Phone: 856-983-0607

Congregational Council Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2021

APPROVED

Call to Order – Purpose Statement & Guiding Principles.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

- Pastor Brett Ballenger
- Walter Stridick, President
- Allison Arber, Vice-President
- Kim Syvertsen, Secretary
- Beth Gebhart
- Wayne Grant
- Joshua D. Groff
- Alex Groff
- Robert Herb
- Lorraine Hoilien
- Michael Parker

Faith5 - Prayer Concerns & Invocation

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Rob motioned to approve minutes
- Alex seconded
- Minutes are approved

Discipleship Growth of Our Leaders

- Unpacking basic principles of stewardship – what does it mean to be a steward? What does it call us to do?
- Gen 1:26-31 The First Creation Story
- Be responsible
- Eat the green plants - take care of the earth to feed us.
- Very good – humans above the plants and animals
- I GIVE YOU – gifts from God
- And take care of it
- Humankind in God's image and created as God's reflection.
- God created the Divine image, they we are very valuable. Care for one another, protection of one another..
- Be fruit, increase your number and fill the earth. Those things that we do that bring life to others.
- "Look" I want you to see it. Creation is beautiful.
- What is this telling us? To be about love for self, others, God and all that has been entrusted for us – Everything.
- And we are able to create with God as well. (medicine, technology)
- We are responsible – co-responsibility for care of the Earth and all it is.
- To those who much has been given, much is expected. A sense of larger responsibility.
- We are responsible with the resources POP has been given and their use in accordance with God's will/delight.
- Does the community look at us as a "player" in the care of the environment?
- Affirmation of Baptism
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth
- How are we helping with overall sustainability?

Ministry Updates

Stewardship Ministry – Allison – did not meet but got intent/pledge card in weekly email. People can print it out and mail back to church. Impact stories. Pastor Brett shared with Synod and they are so happy that they want to share stories at the synod level.

Property Ministry -Rob – no report. Clean up on Saturday morning 8:30 – 12. Tents to be put up on Friday and Saturday. Community garden – Tom Rose will want to plant tomatoes but other than that, should be open to suggestions to plant whatever wanted.

Worship & Music Ministry- Michael – met to discuss holy week, see report. Meeting again tomorrow to review what this weekend will look like and look at plans to continue outdoors until we can come in. Also, online worship one time a weekend, and providing written materials for homebound. Safety team had more research about singing while masked. There is very mixed research on the topic. A music teacher who sings inside feels it is safe to sing, and the committee believes its ok to sing.

Motion that we follow the guidance of the safety team and worship and music ministry to sing masked with a 20-minute duration between each song.

- Seconded by Allison
- 1 abstained. (Wayne)
- Motion passed

Finance Ministry – Wayne – nothing to report at this time

Youth Ministry – Alex. Tending to community garden, food pantry youth involvement.

Addiction & Mental Health Ministry – Lorraine. Health Committee – Vaccine project – helping people get vulnerable people get their vaccinations. Free library in the back of our church. Perhaps work with Beth as a co-ministry with Building Community.

Building Community Ministry – Beth – See Report – Ministry had an email meeting, and they don't want to meet again until they can meet in the building. Beth requests help in how to move people forward. If we need something from this committee, please email Beth.

Family & Education Ministry – Kim see report - We continue planning for Discipleship Practice during February and into Lent.

Social Missions Ministry – Josh. Met in March focusing on Easter giving program. Pantry meets separately. Organizing in the next month or two to regroup.

Financial Health of the Congregation – report was emailed to council.

Witnesses from The Congregation – Allison has been enjoying the Sunday gatherings with families. Debbie Zellers and Florance Kerber also report being so happy about family meetings. Lorraine reports that Pantry received a thank you note from a pantry family.

Pastor's Report – Staff will stop doing the Wednesday newsletter after Easter. Pr. Brett will be using his time on Thursday afternoons and Saturdays to visit with people he hasn't seen. Meeting will be held outdoors.

Unfinished Business – Retreat Review, Call List + Script- Pr. Brett will send a written review of the highlights of the retreat.

Lorraine attended the Green Faith Circle of Southern NJ meeting. It was very interesting and Andy Kim was there, shared good ideas, and wants to be involved.

Council Calls to members – postpone call until we have more information and a decision about if we're meeting in person. Walter will send an email with more clarity next week.

Standing Ministry Reports

- Safety Team – See Worship and Music report above
- Personnel Ministry – Need a council member on committee Wayne Grant volunteers
- Endowment Ministry – trouble getting funds to disperse
- Bequest Ministry - Committee members have been selected
- Audit Ministry – table until April meeting
- Bylaws & Constitution Review Ministry – appointed at council retreat. Josh is reviewing constitution and committee will move forward from there.

Correspondence - none

Requests for Building Use - none

Transfers - none

Reminders - Next Meeting April 28th

Closing Prayer – Walter led us in closing prayer

Passing of the Peace

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Kim Syvertsen, Secretary