



MEETING MINUTES

Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 28, 2015 • 10:45 a.m.

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:45 a.m. with 17 members present. Visiting pastor Dan Shutters opened with prayer. Kathy Davis was asked to take notes.

2. Overview:

Lynn Brandl offered a general overview of where we are since our meeting in February. Summer Kids Kamp is doing well, and our PreSchool continues to thrive - and is expected to do so again when sessions resume in the fall. Through the health of those programs, and by cutting the pastoral hours/compensation package in February, we are just able to break even/hold our own. That said, Sunday giving continues to drop, with even lower giving expected during the summer due to light attendance. Tom Pfenning explained that we pay compensation in arrears, so our last paycheck to Pastor Sue will be paid July 1 (approx. \$5,000 per month). Substitute pastors are paid \$150 per Sunday, plus mileage. We have incurred some additional expenses (such as \$900 in repairs for the lawn tractor), and we continue to look at ways to cut expenses (such as going to one copier and keeping the AC off).

- Reminder: We want to be a joyful ministry – no guilt!
- Preschool/Summer Kids Kamp is thriving – terrific ministry, but we can connect more!
- Partnerships – Scouts, AA, Autumn Leaves, community, other churches – but we can connect more!

3. Pastoral Transition Process:

An Interim job outline (covenant) has been filed with the Synod, and a copy provided to attendees. At this point, we are requesting a 20-hour-per week/\$35-per-hour placement as a starting point. The Transition Process was reviewed briefly, and hard copies of the Synod's 5 Steps were distributed. The group talked about being flexible and considering options such as sharing a pastor with other churches. It was noted that there is a lot of support for us in the community, through places like Condell's interfaith gatherings, local pastors and our substitutes who have said they would support us with hospital visits, etc. There was discussion about communion, including how we might commune ourselves or have the wine and bread consecrated so that we could distribute. Later, Faye questioned our request for a 20-hour minister, as she had always grown up knowing pastors to be full-time, 24-hours on call. We noted that we hoped our 20-hours would allow for flexibility so that as needs arose, the pastor would be able to provide appropriate support, especially since we do not have a large schedule of daily activities that must be maintained (for instance, we do not have multiple Bible studies, youth classes and small groups in place).

- Supply (sub) Pastors through summer (with lay leaders at gaps)
- Formal request for an Interim Pastor provided to Synod
- Next steps on Interim: interview, contract, 30-day out clause, working for fall, plan on at least a year
- Formal Call Process for a more permanent pastor
- Info at www.mtselca.org at "Congregation Support" and "Transition Process."
- Financial guidelines: base salary, benefits, housing, etc.
- We have said we will think outside of the box – part-time; shared time; other ideas.

4. **Financial Review:**

- Follow up on February Meeting when we went to 30hr per week pastor
- Office and keyboard remaining volunteer until further notice
- Continue to look at places to cut so that we can do what needs to be done.
- See additional background in #2 Overview.

Motion to approve financial report as presented.

Motion made by Doug Moore; seconded by Scott Marler; approved as presented (and attached).

5. **Formally Elect Leadership:**

- Terms beginning July 1 (see roster below)
- Thank you to all who have served and to entire congregation – we are all working as a team

Motion to approve the volunteer leadership nominations as presented (listed below).

Motion made by June Moore; seconded by Natalie Hilberg; approved as presented.

Lynn Brandl, President (brandl@earthlink.net; 847-323-2232)

Tom Pfenning, Vice President (tpfen821@aol.com; 224-422-9594)

Rich Davis, Financial Secretary (davis7307@att.net; 224-639-7799)

Judy Tetour, Secretary (judy.tetour@gmail.com; 847-902-4937)

Jodi Jost, Education (jostjodi@att.net; 224-558-8466)

Penni Sauer, Fellowship/Outreach (penry4@gmail.com; 224-628-5774)

Lois Menis, Fellowship/Outreach (loismenis@yahoo.com; 847-521-3803)

Scott Marler, Youth (smileymarler@aol.com; 224-715-3396)

Carlene Lichter, PreSchool Board President (carlenelichter@gmail.com; 847-816-3925)

Rob Jost, PreSchool Board VP/Treasurer (rjost@marsinsurance.com; 815-341-0127)

6. **New Constitution:**

- Begin process to adopt new model now used by ELCA and Synod (adjust as needed)
- Our existing constitution has been in need of review, as it was last adjusted in the mid-1990s. The Synod has just completed work based on the church-wide model, and we can follow from that. The process is fairly long, as it requires time for the entire congregation to examine it.

Motion to start the process to adopt a new constitution based on the ELCA model.

Motion made by Scott Marler; seconded by Doug Moore; motion approved.

7. **Sharing Time:**

Many great ideas and comments were shared, including the following:

- Possibility of Boy Scouts moving their Rummage Sale back to the church (they have requested)
- Possibility of using our beautiful property for an Art Show, or a concert series, or a picnic
- ELCA's God's Work/Our Hands Sunday in September – possibility of hosting a community picnic
- Vernon Hills parade on Saturday – all invited to walk or watch; Thank you to Scott and others for support
- Reach out to Victory Center and Autumn Leaves to invite them to church
- Reach out to Autumn Leaves to expand into an inter-generational daycare

8. **Adjourn and Lord's Prayer:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Liz Pawlak; second by Penni Sauer; meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Davis and Lynn Brandl