

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – MARCH 28, 2023

Present: Pastor Zac, Kathy Vannoy, Brad Anderson, Scott Fisher, Dave James, John Jensen, Tina Boutelle, Keith Neuman, Curtis Klaasen, Ashley Swan

- Pastor Z opened with devotions in the chapel
- February Minutes
 - Curtis motions to approve minutes, Scott seconds, minutes approved.
- February Staff Reports reviewed with quick discussion regarding pipe organ repair. Item will remain on the staff report until repair is completed, hopefully in the first 6 months of 2024.
 - Keith motions to approve reports, Ashley seconds, staff reports approved.

REPORTS

➤ **Treasurer's Report: February 2023**

Summary

For February, we had a deficit of \$40,000 which was \$41,000 worse than budget. Giving was \$33,000 lower than budget. Expenses were \$8,000 higher than budget entirely due to an unforeseen repair of \$10,000 to fully fix the alarm system which was approved by the Property Committee.

The year-to-date deficit is \$65,000 which is behind budget by \$62,000. Giving is lower than budget by \$46,000 and expenses are \$16,000 higher.

Detail

Cash balances are down to ~\$186,000 unrestricted cash and \$226,000 restricted cash.

- Giving
 - Advanced giving of \$62,000 covers the current year-to-date shortfall.
 - Advanced giving in March is ~\$50k which also helps the overall cash position.
 - Giving in February 2023 of \$92,000 compared to giving in February 2022 of \$101,000. Year-to-date through 2023 is higher 3.2% compared to 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Alcohol Requests

Three groups are looking to have alcohol and church functions. The final Alpha Group meeting on Thursday evening, the Trivia Night on April 1st and at the Holy Saturday service on the 8th.

- Keith motions to approve the use of alcohol at each event, Curtis seconds, motion approved.

Atonement Foundation

Kathy stated that Keith Pittrich is looking for a few Council members meet with the Foundation and Stewardship Teams to confirm roles and responsibilities and solidify the mission of the Foundation. Keith Neuman, Curtis Klaasen and Tina Boutelle volunteered to be the council representatives.

School of the Arts

Steve Aspleaf has recruited 5 students and has a goal of 15 students by May. He will reassess at the end of May and decide how to proceed.

Council Forums

Forums are scheduled for Saturday, 22nd at 6:00pm and Sunday, the 23rd at 12:00pm.

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RIC – Reconciling in Christ (<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>)

Pastor Zac prepared a framework of ideas regarding the future of Atonement with the reconciling works initiative of the ELCA. Two ideas were presented to facilitate conversation:

1. *Compromise/Continuation*

In listening to the many thoughts regarding RIC, we revisit adding a banner to the front of the church that is welcoming to the LGBTQ community. Additionally, we tell the Synod we are not open to interviewing a LGBTQ candidate at this time.

In discussions with non-RIC pastors in the area, Pastor heard that several are looking beginning the full RIC process this year as well. Atonement will define an RIC Team to begin the 11-step process that RIC recommends and look to becoming an RIC congregation by May of 2024.

2. *Vote/Decision*

As Atonement has already done some LGBTQ work under Pastor Brian during the gay marriage vote, this option would accelerate the RIC Vote. We would schedule 4 congregational listening/learning sessions and then during the Congregational Meeting in May vote on becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

After much discussion, Keith makes motions that *we begin the educational process of discussing LGBTQ inclusion in the church through conversation and education.*

Ashley amends Keith's motion with ...

In our May 2023 congregational meeting we announce that we are forming a team to begin the RIC process and lead conversation, envisioning a 9-to-12-month duration of how we can be more welcoming to the LGBTQIA+ community and also what it means to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

John seconds the amendment, and both motion and amendment pass.

April Council Meeting

During the April meeting, council needs to begin the discussion of how to answer the 'we are open to interviewing an LGBTQ candidate' for the Synod.

Transition Team

Work on finalizing transition team continues. A final team should be available by the April meeting.

Nominating Committee

Bob Lindeblad, Steve Ruschill and Carol Weber are recruiting council members for the 2023-2024 church year. Goal is for 4 new members – 3 to replace council members rolling off and 1 additional member bringing the total to 10.

Vicar Jordan closed with prayer.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Executive Team – Apr 12th, 2023 at 6:00pm in Room 108

Full Council – Apr 20th, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Gathering Place

Respectfully submitted, Tina Boutelle