

TLC Church Council Meeting – June 9, 2020
Transfiguration Lutheran Church

Attendees:

Staff: Pastor Arthur Murray

Council: Melinda Chau, Dan Ekholm, Steve Jorschumb, Allison Lindman, Steve Mattson, Jerry Olson, Gretchen Schroeder, Sandy Stooke, Becky Woll

Devotions: Steve Jorschumb

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Becky Woll with second by Sandy Stooke to approve the agenda. Motion carried and approved.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Gretchen Schroeder

Motion by Melinda Chau with second by Becky Woll to approve the May Council meeting minutes. Motion carried and approved.

Financial Report: Jerry Olson

- General Fund receipts for May 2020 totaled \$64,800. Disbursements totaled \$77,925, resulting in a deficit of \$13,125 for the month. The YTD balance is now a deficit of \$10,891. In May, the quarterly payment to the Synod was made.
- Capital campaign receipts totaled \$13,908 with expenditures of \$14,636. The May deficit is \$728, and the YTD surplus is \$9,437. There remains a surplus of \$19,689 for the entire campaign to date.
- TLC has expended nearly 60% of the PPE loan amount, and may need to pay back a small portion of the loan.
- Motion by Sandy Stooke with second by Allison Lindman to approve the May financial report. Motion carried and approved.

Pastor's Reports: Pastor Arthur Murray

My Status

- Thank you very much for the flexibility that was gifted to me several weeks ago. I have been back at full-time over the last few weeks and expect that to continue from here on.

Online Attendance

- Online attendance continues to grow. This is counter to the usual trend of decreased attendance heading into summer. Many, many thanks to Brad Nolte for his continued efforts to make online worship a very accessible and meaningful experience. A summary of attendance is attached.

Drive-In Worship

- Pastor Ed has been hoping to launch Drive-In worship for some time. We discussed it as early as Easter. Our first Drive-in worship service will be this coming Sunday. Please plan to attend if

possible. Bring your own lawn chair and bread and wine/juice. It is a trial and we intend to offer it on a regular basis if it meets a need. Livestream will continue to be offered as well. Question: will the livestream Drive-In compromise the quality of the Livestream?

- Pastor Ed and Michelle have requested that Council members serve as ushers along with Renee. We are looking for two or three volunteers. Please contact Renee.

Faith Formation

- Renee has adapted VBS to be an at home faith formation offering that families can use at home according to their schedule.
- Renee has agreed to postpone her retirement date by one month in order to help us prepare for the fall. Her final day, including using up some vacation time, will be August 31. We hope that we will be able to have some sort of appropriate send-off and retirement gift.

Re-Opening

- At this time weekly staff discussions have not led to any plans to re-open worship services inside the building prior to July 4. We are inclined to continue to focus on producing meaningful online worship while expanding and inviting safe outdoor worship and fellowship opportunities. This weekend will be a trial with Drive-In worship. Council input is invited on this topic.

Intern Pastor

- Grace continues to curate the daily devotion mailed to the TLC mailing list. In the wake of the George Floyd killing, she has shifted the focus towards racial justice for the time being.
- Grace is offering a weekly Bible Study that began last week on Wednesday night.

Phone Call Ministry

- 100 TLC members are receiving weekly phone check-in phone calls from one of about 30 volunteers in addition to pastoral staff.
- Care Mail Crafters created over 60 personalized cards that were sent out with messages and prayers of support from TLC staff and community to front-line workers in our congregation.

Music Ministry

- Rob continues to work with all our musicians to record new music for our weekly services. He had the particularly inspired idea to pay tribute to George Floyd this past Sunday through the music of Paul Robeson. He records weekly with socially distanced singers and continues to build a repertoire of songs/hymns that can be used as needed.

Pastoral Acts

- Pastor Ed has presided at our first Zoom funeral for former Council Secretary, Carol Hill's husband, Larry. This past weekend. It was very effective and well-received. It included three pre-recorded eulogies, a number of musical contributions and a live element with Pastor Ed's homily. Intern Pastor Grace provided invaluable technical support via the Zoom platform and also shared pastoral leadership.

Youth and Family

- Pete Erickson, Interim Youth and Family Minister, worked closely with the College Ministry Team, led by Margaret Mattson, and staff to produce a meaningful Graduation Sunday. He did a great job of reaching out and connecting with families. He and I visited a number of families to deliver their gifts in person. Driveway visits have been a good way to connect with members.

Assessment and Transition Work

- Pete will be attending our meeting today to report on the assessment and transition phase of his work with us.

Synod

- Announced furloughs of four synod office employees. They need our support and it has been sent.

Mission and Outreach

- Mission and Outreach team lead, Marilyn Erickson, has proposed that the Mission and Outreach combine efforts with Racial Justice team and Welcoming Diversity team as we consider how we approach Outreach in the wake of recent developments regarding racial justice in our communities.

Advanced Planning

- Church schedule has been completed the summer of 2021. We incorporated the flexibility to continue in an online format or transition back to in-person gatherings.

Boundary Waters

- The first trip leaves tomorrow. I will be leading along with Dave Dickson and Solveig Orngard, with the additional young adult leadership support of Preston Wenge and Rachael Thomka. The trip is full with 17 paddlers and 1 dog.

My Calling

- I have felt a shift, or a re-awakening in my ministry over the past two weeks with the death of George Floyd and the ensuing events. Laura and I joined the march the day after his death, Tuesday the 26th (also our wedding anniversary). It was a peaceful but very charged event. Many emotions were flowing. The Synod made an appeal for clergy presence and there were quite a number of us there. I was grateful to see other TLC members join in, especially Council member Melinda Chau and her sons. Thank you.
- A week later, Laura and I took our children with us to join the invitation to march with black clergy in Minneapolis and St. Paul. I shared some of the dilemma we face as parents in my preaching last Sunday.
- To summarize, I will just say that the calling to engage with the work of racial justice remains as strong as ever in me. I have been relatively disengaged from activism for the past couple of years, largely out of a desire to protect my children. The death of George Floyd has shattered my illusion of being able to protect them. I strongly believe that working for racial justice is an essential part of my work as pastor, parent and baptized child of God.

- I can't predict where this calling will lead. I do want the council to be aware of my convictions in this area, and look to you to help me seek an appropriate balance (should balance ever be lacking) between my pastoral duties and following the call to work for racial justice. I intend to be honest and transparent with you and value honest feedback in return. I welcome honest conversation on this topic at any time with council and/or other members of the congregation.

Old Business:

- **Arthur's schedule:** Pastor Arthur is back to full time hours now, which is ahead of schedule.
- **PPP Loan Update:** Steve Jorschumb
Rules continue to change. Updated rules issued today, which adjusts the amount needing to be used to cover payroll down to 60% and extends the timeframe to use the funds.

New Business:

- **Youth and Family Ministry Update:** Pete Erickson
 - Interserve to help maintain current program and developing new programs.
 - Also doing process work through development of the the next generation of youth programming, evaluation of the current program, discernment, and focus groups.
 - Assessment work will be used to help create a job description that aligns with TLC values and mission, and to help go through the HR process.
 - Currently looking to create a task force, which may be a good time given the current environment, leaving an open slate to be imaginative.
 - Pete sees this as an exciting opportunity, but it will be work.
- **Addition Awareness Grant Proposal:**
 - TLC planned to host an addition training with Faith Partners last fall, but it didn't happen in part due to cost.
 - The TLC Addiction Awareness Team and the Center of Addition & Faith are requesting to submit a grant request for a Ministry Imagination Grant from the Synod to provide funding for training on pastoral care of addiction in a time of pandemic in partnership with Faith Partners.
 - Motion by Sandy Stooke with 2nd by Jerry Olson to support submittal of the grant application to the Synod. Motion carried and approved.
- **Social Media Use Policy:** Steve Jorschumb
Steve has received concerns over some postings by Pastor Ed on social media. He has talked to Pastor Ed. Pastor Ed will be pulling these postings and will be more aware of the policy in the future.
- **Racial Justice Discussion:** Postponed discussion to next month

Next Meeting Date: July 14th, 2020

Devotions: Allison Lindman

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Becky Woll with second by Sandy Stooke. Motion carried and approved.
Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.