

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church: Family Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2020

Our Purpose Statement: Sharing God's love, growing in faith, and creating community.

Our Guiding Biblical Principles:

1. Worship of the triune God is central to our life together.
 2. We are grounded in Scripture & prayer & we encourage each other to question, listen, & learn.
 3. We believe everyone is loved & worthy of love; all people are welcome in God's kingdom.
 4. We respond to the needs of our neighbors near and far, following Christ's example.
 5. We use our time, talents, and finances for the glory of God.
 6. We promote love and justice for all of God's creation.
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Call to Order

Natalie Cain called the meeting to order.

Minutes from May Family Meeting

Minutes from the September 13th, 2020 Family Meeting were approved as presented.

Budget Report

Dan Hanner presented the budget report. Dan expressed gratitude for the generosity of the Peace Family, especially for the contributions to Peace For The Future which funded the solar panels.

- Contact Dan or the Peace office for a copy of the budget report
- The church received a PPP loan in of \$52,000 in June. Dan has applied to have the loan forgiven.
- The church is running a surplus despite a slight drop in giving, mainly due to the PPP loan and a decrease in spending in areas related to use of the church buildings. Dan expects the church to be in good financial shape at the end of the year
- Endowment Fund Update
- Peace For The Future Update
- Questions from the congregation:
 - Have we done a projection of impact to budget if people stop giving? Dan replied that the PFTF is outside the budget and that we hope people consider increasing their giving to the operating budget with money that is no longer pledged to PFTF
 - Are we considering putting some of the money in the church bank accounts in different types of investment accounts? Dan replied no, not for regular accounts. We could do that with some of the PFTF money in the future and the Endowment Fund is invested in more aggressive, risky funds.

Update to Constitution and Bylaws

David Whitten presented a summary of the changes to the constitution and Bylaws.

- Changes to Constitution
 - 1—Required changes to align Peace Constitution with Synod Model Constitution
 - Approved removal of “by written ballot” from Section C11.02
 - 2—Change “Family Meeting” to “Congregation Meeting”
 - Use language in model constitution
 - 3—Add provision for holding meetings by remote communication
- Changes to Bylaws
 - 1—Remove section requiring membership affirmation
 - 2—Change “Family Meeting” to “Congregation Meeting”
 - 3—Changes to Names of Ministries and Committees
 - Question on difference between ministries and committees. Answer: Committees are focused on a specific task, ministries have broader purposes
 - Suggestion for future discussion about removing “Planned Giving” from the name of Planned Giving, Memorials & Endowment Committee
 - Question if the Music Ministry is part of the Worship Ministry. Answer: Yes

- Approved addition of commas to Children, Youth, and Family Ministry name
- Question on why the number of members in the Personnel Committee was reduced from six to three and why there are no term limits. Answer: Continuity is important, and the changes to the Bylaws reflect how the committee actually works
- Approved description of Personnel Committee
- 4—Add Technology Ministry
 - Approved removal of description of ministry. Let members of ministry define purpose
 - Question if Technology ministry includes Payroll. Answer: No, we use a third party for payroll
- Approved Constitution with approved changes
- Approved Bylaws with approved changes

Endowment Committee Election

Sue Clark was elected to the Endowment Committee. Ramsey Woodworth noted that the committee has a separate charter that should be integrated into the Bylaws. This suggestion will be discussed at a future Council Meeting

Ministry Updates

- Nadia provided an update on the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
 - Peace is providing food for the Bailey's Hypothermia Program for a week in December, and is planning to also provide food for a week in January
 - Homework Club: Funding was extended through June to pay two Homework Club parents
 - Peace is continuing outreach to the Afghan Community
 - Peace has held online Q&A sessions on Faith Based Advocacy and is developing a survey for the congregation to get thoughts on what kind of work is good to do and how to use our resources
- Sue Clark provided an update on Gifts of Hope. The Gifts of Hope program will be entirely online this year. Natalie Cain is the new Executive Director of Gifts of Hope, which is overseen by the Metro DC Synod
- Shannon Spence provided an update Racial Justice Team
 - The team continues to meet, focusing on topics such as voter engagement
 - The work in this area that Peace is doing is getting wider recognition, including the Troubling The Waters program
- Jim Nice provided an update on Brothers of Peace who continue to meet the first Thursday of the month via Zoom

Closing Prayer

Natalie Cain gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.