

**Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran
Church Council Committee Meeting
February 2023
Highlights**

The Council met on February 28, 2023. In attendance were Pastor Sherrie Hofmann, President Ann Davison, Secretary Winnie McDermott, Kate Isom, and Elaine Bennett.

Following the reading of Revelations 21:1-5, the group held a brief discussion focused on the need to consider next steps and the way forward for Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church. Ways to informally gather information from the congregation regarding satisfaction levels and concerns were considered.

Ann shared several updates and Committee reports:

- Finance - Jan Phoebus and Dean Miller have agreed to join the Finance Committee.
- Stewardship – The Committee needs a new chairperson. Ann proposed a candidate and will move forward with asking this person to take the position.
- Mutual Ministry – The MM Committee (Pastor Hofmann, Ann Davison, Judy Franz, Pat Werner, Jack Fansler and Rich Armell) continues to meet roughly every other month. Committee members recently discussed the process to be followed when involving other pastors in church activities and services. Invitations to other pastors should involve our pastor from the outset.
- Communication/ Website/Advertising – 139 individuals receive our weekly updates. 50-60% of these recipients open the document. We will continue occasional advertising in the Mountain Courier and Northern VA Daily regarding special worship services, including for upcoming Holy Week, as well as other church events or needs. Additionally, it was noted that our website is an important source of information not just for church members but potential visitor as it is often the first introduction people have to our church.
- Seasonal offering – Council members suggested that monies raised during Lenten and Holy week services go to Lutheran Disaster Relief for earthquake assistance.
- The idea of a possible Friday “Open Sanctuary Day” was explored. This would entail opening the sanctuary to the public for personal reflection and prayer. Several Council members indicated their willingness to host these openings.

Pastor provided updates on the health and well-being of several members of the Congregation she’s regularly visiting and/or in touch with. She also shared that two churches in our district are losing pastors due to retirement. This may present an opportunity for shared ministry.

Additionally, the Pastor reviewed highlights of the Prince of Peace Annual Report submitted to the Synod. The Report noted that the church concluded the year 2022 with 99 baptized members, two more than at the end of 2021, and 94 confirmed members. Average weekly worship attendance (in person) was 33 with an estimated 62 active participants in the Congregation. Total receipts in 2022 were \$129,288 and total disbursements were \$139,801, of which approximately \$23,000 were for mission support or other benevolences.

On behalf of the Worship and Music Committee, Pastor shared that we need to launch a search for a pianist when our current accompanist is unavailable. The possible need to increase the remuneration was discussed

and a motion made to increase the per-service payment from \$120 to \$150. The motion was seconded, voted on and passed.

Pastor also provided an update on the urgent need for a new Clavinova which will cost approximately a \$4,000. As several individuals had already indicated a willingness to financially support purchase of a new piano, it was agreed to make a special appeal to the Congregation.

With regards to Christian Education, weekly Bible study is on hold until after Easter as we continue mid-week scriptural reflections as part of our mid-week Lenten series. However, Pastor suggested we may want to try holding Bible studies on Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the spring.

Ann concluded the meeting noting that, while we traditionally hold an annual meeting of the church in Spring, it may be good to consider twice a year meetings to offer more opportunities for congregational engagement in church matters.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm and the next meeting will be March 28th at 4:00 pm.