

Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Committee Meeting

November 22, 2022

Highlights

The Council met virtually on November 22, 2022, and welcomed two new members, Elaine Bennett and Steve Stuart. Also in attendance were Pastor Sherrie Hofmann, President Ann Davison, Vice President Julie Moomaw, Secretary Winnie McDermott, Kate Isom and Rich Armell.

Ann reported that an updated budget would be provided by Church Treasurer Dave Franz in December and that she intended early in the new year to ask the Finance Committee to take a fresh look at our expense lines in advance of building a budget for 2023. Specific areas for focus include Pastor Compensation (for which a committee was appointed in October to review), office supplies and equipment, and our mission support -- the funds designated to carry out our call as a Congregation. Ann also shared that the Mutual Ministry Committee (which includes Rich Armell, Ann Davison, Jack Fansler, Pat Werner, and Pastor Sherrie) continues to meet about every six weeks to discuss topics of mutual interest and concern for the Pastor and the congregation.

Pastor Sherrie reported on upcoming services for the holidays, including a new “Blue Christmas” service planned for December 14th. She shared appreciation for the musicians who have been assisting with worship and noted our need for a long-term, more permanent arrangement. Pastor also provided updates on her visits with congregation members facing health setbacks and recent appeals to the church by individuals in financial need. Pastor would like us to meet with the Synod’s “Healthy Congregations” team to discuss strategies for growth and community building.

Ann put forward a recommendation from the Technology Committee that we move our church member-related data and other sensitive and important documents into the cloud to increase data security. The motion was made and passed to expend the modest investment (less than \$100/year) to do so. Pastor noted that this service may come with our existing “Power Church” license.

Ann also shared that a small group met during Fellowship recently to discuss the priorities for the Social Ministry Committee. Conversation focused on perhaps shifting some attention to the growing needs of our church members while also continuing traditional activities such as collections for Shenandoah Valley Lutheran Ministries and other ELCA missions.

Council discussed how to appropriate offerings collected at this year’s Christmas Service. In recent years, Christmas offerings have been donated to external charities. In light of our current budget balance, a suggestion was made that we keep the

Christmas offering for church operating expenses and revisit whether a portion of collections at Easter might be donated to an external charity. It was noted that visitors attending Christmas service often give to their own favorite charities throughout the year and are happy to support the church itself for providing the Christmas worship experience. A motion to retain the collections this Christmas service for the purpose of Church operating and mission expenses was made and approved.

The Council will meet next in January.