

**Consistory Minutes**  
**June 1, 2014**

Those in Attendance:

Whit Wheeler, President;  
Lisa Peterson, Secretary;  
Pastor Carolyn Richar

Judy Norton, Treasurer;  
Pastor Kristen Curlee;

Absent:

Marya Hynes, Vice President;

Peter Rich, Trustee;

Guest:

Bill Graver

President Wheeler called the meeting to order at 11:45.

Pastor Carolyn led us in devotions.

**Minutes:**

Judy moved and Lisa seconded that the minutes of the April 27, 2014 meeting be approved as corrected. Motion was passed unanimously.

Electronic Votes: There were no electronic votes during this period.

**Finances:**

The most recent water bill was \$1,700 (down from more than \$2,000) which reflects the corrections and repairs that have taken place. The bill should be more in keeping with our norm at the end of the next billing cycle. We talked about considering installing low-flow toilets in the pre-school (at least four in Children's International), which has high use levels. The property's outdoor taps are still not working properly, but are not leaking so will not be fixed until there is another project. The group asked for estimates on the cost of toilets, including whether a bulk discount may be possible, and agreed to see whether a member of La Luz's congregation may be able to do the installation.

The group checked on the use of online giving, asking whether this arrangement is worth it for the church. At this time, four to five families are using this service. The group considered it worthwhile to stay with this arrangement, which costs \$300 per year, for another year.

The group inquired about donations that may have been made in Roy Lof's name. The group suggested that these funds be combined with the funds previously donated in Bernie Lof's name to create a Lof memorial fund.

Bill spoke to the group about evaluating the cost factor in our rental arrangements. He had conducted an analysis of our shared-use costs to develop an estimate of what relative portions of utilities and related building expenses were being utilized by Bethel and its tenants. The group considered his information a useful baseline for consideration and noted that lessees should bear some responsibility for building wear and tear. They also discussed the tax status of the lessees, noting that if any are for-profit entities, the church may need to look more carefully at the breakout of expenses. If they are not-for-profit, their tenancy with us should be considered a gift to the community as part of our church's wider mission and should be celebrated. Bill offered to update the figures in his analysis to work from the data of more recent years.

### **Updates on Old Business:**

Painting Status: Painting has been completed. The choir room was not done due to a miscommunication with La Luz. We had more spaces to be painted than they had brought people for. In addition, with heavy rains the Wednesday before painting, there had been significant flooding in the choir room. There are still supplies to paint the choir room when we are able to arrange another date.

There was not substantial cost difference between low- and no-fume paints, so we went with the no-fume option.

### **New Business:**

#### Property Committee:

Pastor Diaz has offered on behalf of La Luz to buy plastic treads to place on all steps going from the sanctuary to fellowship hall. La Luz will bring us samples before purchasing.

The door leading from the office to the front of the church has a structural issue. Because there is no middle support between the two doors, the frame does not have sufficient support which can cause problems with alignment on the locks. If we can install a center bar (which can be removed as needed), this problem can be addressed. La Luz has expressed a willingness to provide new doors, but will be asked about their willingness to contribute to this structural change, which will address a long-term problem and avoid frequent replacement of the front doors. The group agreed to get recommendations on contractors from the lock company and get an assessment of the needs and possible cost of work on the doors.

The heating and air conditioning contractor is to come in June 9 to examine all filters and A/C units.

There are a lot of fluorescent tubes out in the 2s room. We will ask Salvatore to replace them, but may need to buy more.

Salvatore was able to lay mulch in anticipation of the multiple church events in June. Kristen expressed a desire to provide him something extra in recognition of the amount of work he had to do beyond regular duties. Judy moved that we move \$100 from the property budget to buy a gift certificate for Salvatore. Lisa seconded the motion and the group approved unanimously.

Kristen is working on getting an appraisal on the carving of the Last Supper at the altar so that we can add a rider to our insurance.

Strawberry Festival Proceeds: We have historically provided the proceeds from the Strawberry Festival to the Red Cross. However, this has not been budgeted as an expense to the Red Cross. As a procedural matter, the Outreach Committee does not have the authority to vote on how funds will be used, and the church needs at least some of these funds for part of our own budget in order to maintain a balance. There is an estimated \$450 balance between our income and expenses (gain). The group suggested that for this year, we could provide the proceeds of the Festival to the Red Cross in order to be in keeping with what had been advertised. With additional funds from reduced insurance expenses and the Lof donations, we could offset needs elsewhere in the budget. The group determined that it would be necessary to update the congregation at the upcoming congregational meeting.

Kristen noted the need to make committee chairs aware of their role in monetary decisions. She asked if Judy could prepare a one page document to explain appropriate procedures and guidelines. She also suggested that expense authorizations be a function of a percentage of the committee's overall budget (so that very small items could be quickly obtained without having to go through the process of obtaining higher-level approval).

The next congregational meeting will take place June 29 at 11:30 with a potluck.

Vision of God Clinic: The group discussed purchase of a sonogram machine for the clinic in El Salvador. Lizette had provided information for a machine that would have cost \$380 in El Salvador, but Carolyn was able to purchase here for \$70, plus \$34 for an extra sensor. We will give the machine to Lizette when she next comes here. Judy moved that this purchase be paid for through the Jeanne Frey memorial fund (total \$104.94). Lisa seconded the motion and the measure was approved unanimously.

### **Senior Pastor's Report:**

We had a wonderful celebration of Kim Moeller's service with our church.

June 22 will be the last day of Sunday school for the summer.

Kristen will be away July 27 and August 10-17. Carolyn will be here to lead worship on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and Tom Russell will come from pulpit supply. Worship will be hosted by others on both the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Kristen had encouraged Angie to take leave when our church will be worshipping with other congregations in August. Angie may instead choose to attend those churches as a learning experience. Andy at Church of the Brethren is to give her organ lessons at both CoB and here. Angie will be away October 12. She will find someone to handle music for that day.

Judy suggested that we use church envelopes for those Sundays in August when we will be worshipping at other churches. Kristen said she would raise this at the next planning meeting. She also noted that this would be a good opportunity to remind members about the online giving option. The group suggested that the host church should keep any loose cash donated.

Kristen is moving into planning for the fall. She will have Next Generation Leadership Initiative training September 22-26 and is planning to have one weekend off in October. She inquired about changing the terms of her call from three weeks of leave to four, noting that this is a more standard arrangement.

Kristen noted that the Spiritual Council had voted that Dave Dieselhorst be moved to elder emeritus status.

Kristen updated the group on marriage equality discussions in the church. She noted that we need a process for continuing after showing of the film *Bridegroom* in June. At the end of the process, we should come out with a statement of what Bethel believes about marriage. We will need to develop a timeline and determine who will lead the church conversations.

### **Associate Pastor's Report:**

Carolyn estimates that she will be moving out of the area in three years and asked that we start looking at where she should best focus her efforts and where she can start easing off. Kristen asked that we have some focus around the El Salvador clinic during this time, with particular emphasis on getting it to a point of sustainability. She suggested that we consider a mission trip.

She also asked what preaching may look like when Carolyn moves on, and suggested that we consider lay preachers, more personal reflections, and hymn sing Sundays.

The next consistory meeting is scheduled for August 6 at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa J. Peterson, Secretary