

Minutes – New Journey Lutheran Church Council – April 10, 2024

Present: Pastor Beth Gallen, President Cindi Brady, Vice-President Pete Galindez, Treasurer Mike Bartanen, Jo Martinson, Mike Wilson

Meeting was convened at 5:30 pm.

Pastor opened meeting with Prayer of Discernment. Council moved to “Dwell in the Word.” Discussed assigned book chapters following discussion questions posed by the Pastor. Members were assigned to read chapters 5-8 for the next meeting.

- (1) March Minutes were approved as distributed.**
- (2) Treasurer’s Report (distributed prior to meeting) was briefly discussed.**
- (3) Ministry Reports:**
 - a. Questions about e-news and website were discussed. NEVC now has its own link. Issue of one or two e-news postings per month was discussed. Concerns about how Communication Coordinator receives monthly meeting minutes was discussed. Apparently there is a breakdown in sharing the minutes which will be fixed.**
 - b. Question of the organization and function of Space Assessment Committee was discussed. President will call Gwen Rubenow to organize the committee and ask that a report be prepared for the August Council Meeting.**
 - c. Pastor’s Report. (Pastor supplied copy of her remarks):**
 1. Christian Education series “Learning the Language of Lament” was useful for our community. We intentionally chose between a study and worship as opposed to doing both. This worked well for us. Next year, I will shorten the study to 4 instead of 5 weeks. My feeling is that this study challenged our community’s spirituality and concepts about how to live faith before God and before one another. It was disruptive and dislodging in a helpful way that leads to growth, new concepts, an invitation to move into the deeper waters of faith.
 2. Holy Week attendance was right about what I anticipated. 20 for Maundy Thursday and 30 for Good Friday. Easter was higher than expected with about 69 folks in worship. I have received some feedback from people that our Holy Week services and Easter were particularly moving.
 3. Received 5 new members on Sunday March 24. I apologize to the council for not including Rusty Kapela in our vote last month. I didn’t know he would be so eager to join! **Council affirmed Rusty’s membership.**

4. I wish to convey my gratitude to you and to our congregation for investing in my formation as a first call pastor. As you know, one of the requirements of all first call ELCA pastors is to attend theological learning events twice a year. This was a commitment our congregation made—financially and in terms of time. These events meet the need for pastors to develop relationships. Being a pastor can be lonely and in the first years of ministry there is a lot of stretching and learning through mistakes. Many pastors wonder if they are cut out for the work. Colleagues help to reaffirm the call. More than that, these events provide content that is not covered through formal education process. You just can't learn everything in seminary. And our Synod, the Grand Canyon Synod, Bishop Deb and Associate to the Bishop, Pastor Jacqui have cultivated excellent programs and content that take the learning needs of first call pastors seriously. Thank you for investing in this for me.
5. This last session was about executive skills for leadership. Zeroing in on vision and mission development. I am returning to you with good questions for us about articulating our “why” Why are we New Journey Lutheran Church?
6. Lastly, I was invited to continue on with first call event this November. Due to some of the disruptions of COVID-19, and the Synod developing a more cohesive first call learning program, I wonder if it would be helpful to continue. This would be an additional financial investment.
7. We might consider making a one-time financial gift to the Synod designated for leadership development.

(4) Bookkeeper position was discussed. Still considering job description after receiving feedback from Elizabeth Pepio. Pastor will take lead in discussing and negotiating potential position with her and Council.

(5) Ministry Team Council visit schedule discussion postponed until May meeting.

(6) Revised Council Agenda draft was briefly discussed.

(7) Audit update. Audit not yet completed.

(8) Membership Roster follow-up by Pastor to contact inactive members continues. Pastor will generate letters.

(9) New Business:

- a. **Proposed visit to NJLC by Bishop was discussed. After noting scheduling conflicts with proposed date, Pastor will contact Bishop to find an alternative.**
- b. **Need for revisiting Gift Policy document (a topic from last year) was discussed. A hard copy was distributed; a digital copy will be distributed by the President;**

and members were asked to read and make suggestions and forward the suggestions to the Treasurer for further discussion in May.

Next Meeting: May 14, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

After Lord's Prayer, meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Bartanen, Secretary *pro tem*.