First Lutheran Church Council Minutes – January 11, 2017

The First Lutheran Church Council met January 11, 2017. Those present were Margaret Askelsen, Rod Brooks, Austin Charlson, Joyce Charlson, Lori Frink, Leslie Moore, Deb Sebby, Joan Voigts, and Pastor Nicole Woodley.

Called to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by President A. Charlson.

Devotions: Devotions were given by Pastor N. Woodley.

Pastors Reports – Grant and Nicole Woodley: Pastor N. Woodley reported that they have been invited to attend the Farm Bureau Young Farmer's Conference January 27-29. Camp staff from Okoboji will do the service. Installation of officers will be held on February 5. Pastors submitted written monthly reports.

Pastor Grant Woodley:
2016 December Pastor Grant's Report to Dows and Clarion Councils

Scheduling, Time Off and Continuing Ed
Vacation days used this month: 3, Dec 27-29
Vacation days used: 28 Vacation days left: 0
Con Ed days used: 0 Con Ed days left: 12

Pastoral Care Did a graveside service for Elsa Leto at Vernon. Continuing follow up care for Judy Ahrens, Pete Larsen, and another who wishes to remain unnamed. Attended Clarion Deacons meeting Covered communion service at the Meadows for Raynee Delano
Worship Advent worship is Holden Evening Prayer. Scriptures and Themes are from Creative Communication's "From Heaven Above" series. Planned and participated in Christmas Eve and led Christmas day worship in Dows.
Fellowship
Confirmation & Education Participated in joint Children's Christmas program with UCC and UPC in Clarion Attended high school Sunday School class in Dows.
Community Relations and activities Leadership Planning Council retreats
Other Met with Ryan Nail to coordinate redesign of Clarion website

Pastor Nicole Woodley:
2016 Dec Pastor Nicole's FLC JOINT Report to Council January 4, 2017

Scheduling, Time Off and Continuing Ed:
● Vacation days used this month: 3 (Dec 27-29, 26th and 30th Holiday comp days)
Total days used: **24** Vacation days left: **0**
● Continuing Ed days used: **5** Continuing Ed days left: **7**
● Sundays off: **2** Sundays off left: **2**
● Upcoming vacation/continue ed days: working to plan vacation days for 2017
    ○ Requesting Jan 29th off, working on getting a sub and/or preacher from one of the Lutheran Bible camps to promote camp this summer.

Pastoral Care Continue pre-marriage counseling/coordinating with 3 couples: Jess Klatt/Shawn (8-18-18), Samantha Crawford (fall 2018), Kayla Conwell (5-13-17). Continued Pastoral care with Judy Ahrends, now in hospice, and one individual in Dows.
Worship Completed Advent sermon series "From Heaven Above" Completed Advent worship using Holden Evening worship Will continue with our Believe series in worship beginning in Jan. Planned and participated in Christmas Eve worship in Clarion.
Fellowship
Confirmation & Education Participated in joint Children's Christmas program with UCC and UPC in Clarion; Christmas program in Dows delayed for weather reasons.
Community Relations and activities Led Clarion Care Center and the Meadows devotions jointly with Jody Johnson and Kim Lee to train them for helping.
Leadership Work with Grant to plan Dows Core Mission and Strategic Development work to finish up development phase in Jan. Clarion working on next steps for Council retreat in Jan Work on Planning council retreat

Core Team Report – Will move forward and discuss at Council Retreat February 12.

2017 Priorities – 2017 Priorities will be set at February 12 council retreat.

Youth Report – Pastor G. and N. Woodley: *Youth group partnership opportunities were explored in 2016 by joining the leadership team and participating in the "Youth Group" held at the Methodist Church on Wednesday nights. While the youth group leadership team was supportive of moving forward with a partnership, the Methodist council was not open to this possibility at this time.*

There are youth already attending youth group options in the community (Kellers, Methodist, Chicks, etc..). These groups meet a variety of needs and youth who have found their needs met in these groups, we encourage them to continue to attend. It does not seem to be wise stewardship on our part to try to create something similar, so we would recommend the following...

1. *Continue to offer quality programming with well trained and equipped leaders during the Sunday School hour, with our current partnership with the UPC and UCC churches.*
2. *Invest our finances and time into "Peer Ministry Training" program this spring to equip and train the adult leaders and the youth with leadership potential in at least our 1st Lutheran Clarion and Dows, UPC and UCC churches, with possibility of inviting others we see would benefit from the training in our community.*

This program will be held over a Friday/Saturday in a retreat form and includes 3 follow up coaching sessions by PML staff.

With your approval, we will move forward with setting a date and going about discussing sharing financial responsibilities with at least the UPC/UCC churches.

Motion by R. Brooks to approve moving forward with the Peer Ministry Leadership Training program with UPC and UCC at a cost of $2200. Carried. A committee will be formed to organize the retreat. Local middle school-age and high school-age youth and adult leaders will be invited to attend the retreat.

Church Office Report – Lori Frink: Scott and Dani Scheffel's transfer paperwork has been received. A new church website was launched on January 11, 2017. Look for the worship services to be uploaded about 3-4 days following a worship service.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by J. Charlson to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2016, council meeting. Carried.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by J. Charlson to approve the agenda. Carried.

President's Report – Austin Charlson: No report

Vice President – Rod Brooks: No report**.** Thanks was given to R. Brooks for his years of service as Vice President of the church council.

Treasurer's Report – Bruce Frink: B. Frink provided the Proposed 2017 budget and written financial reports ending December 31, 2016.

Department Reports

Auxiliaries Department – Joyce Charlson: Mary Tesdahl dispersed approximately $1500 to missions from the FLCW funds.

Education Department – Shannon Brooks: The Sunday School Christmas Program went well. Due to the weather, the make-up date was Wednesday, December 21, 2016.

Evangelism Department – Margaret Askelsen: Shared information from a church that joined the local Chamber of Commerce and their network provided a way for young couples to meet and socialize.

Ministry Department – Deb Sebby: No report

Property/Maintenance Department – Maurice Riley/Mark Cramer: Committee appointed in November for roof project: Rod Brooks, Austin Charlson, Bruce Frink, Rob Cayler, Mark Cramer, Maurice Riley. Roof bids being explored and received by committee. Ice melt and snow shovels will be located by the three church entrances.

Stewardship Department – Leslie Moore: Shared draft of brochure for stewardship that includes Time, Talent and Treasure. Three meals will held at the church this winter and spring to help with fund raising for the roof.

Worship Department – Joan Voigts: No report

Old Business: Pastoral evaluations by council members were due to church office by December 31, 2016. Pastor N. Woodley reported that Donna Diamond is planning to expand God's Guitars in the near future.

New Business: Initial performance review held for Lori Frink, church secretary. Pastors shared their Lenten Proposal: gather each Wednesday evening for a brief worship service (As we have done in the past, but shortened a bit-- 1-2 hymns, 1 scripture reading and a brief message and prayers), followed by a service project for all ages. They will begin exploring ideas for possible projects by gathering ideas for local project or causes that can be done in a 30-45 minute time frame that would work for all ages, *and* identifying point people for each of the 5 Wednesdays in Lent (not counting Ash Wednesday or Holy Week). Will extend invitation to the UPC/UCC churches and involve them in the planning.

Lord's Prayer and Adjournment: There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Voigts

Church Council Secretary