

Lutheran Church of the Cross
“Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts”
Council Spring Retreat
March 20, 2021

In attendance: Pastor Lisa Ahlness, Deacon Janie Hague, Mike Geiermann, Cherie Krueger, Kylie Blanchard, Krisi Kunz, Kari Harris, Mark Kunze, Art Wheeler, and Connie Werner.

Absent: Ron Borth

Opening Prayer

Pastor Lisa led the Council in an Opening Prayer.

Ice Breakers

The Council participated in Get to Know You/Icebreaker activities.

Review of Constitution

The Council reviewed Ch. 12 of the LCC Constitution, which outlines the Council’s responsibilities. One of the duties outlined in the LCC Constitution is the Council’s responsibility for an annual membership review. It was noted this has not been done in recent years and needs to be addressed and completed. It was decided those doing the review will not remove individuals from a membership list before sending a communication (letter) to inform them of the review and ask them about their membership status. The Council will create a letter to use as part of this process.

LCC Organizational Chart

The Council discussed the LCC Organization Chart and the items under each of the organizational categories. Council members are assigned to an organizational category and serve as a liaison between the assigned groups/committees and the Council.

The current Policy Manual and Organizational Chart do not align, and the Council discussed looking into options to update the Policy Manual. The Council then discussed the categories included on the Organizational Chart:

Worship and Music

Pastor Lisa noted this is one of the most active categories and the Worship and Music Committee meets regularly. She also noted that “Church Production,” currently found under the Generosity Team category, should be moved under Worship and Music.

Congregational Operations

Communications/Social Media Guidelines

As the church does additional communications via social media, it was requested the Council create Social Media Guidelines for church communications. It was noted the Synod likely has Social Media Guidelines in place and the Council will look into options through the Synod before creating its own guidelines.

Kylie noted a communications option for the “Crossword” would be to create an Editorial Calendar, which would include annual events and communications that are included in the publication each month/year. This would help to ensure information is not missed from year to year and make planning

for each month's issue more efficient. Krisi noted a similar calendar may be helpful to create for Council agendas, so items that need to be addressed/discussed yearly on certain months are not missed from year-to-year or forgotten on agendas as Council Members transition.

Generosity Team

Pastor Lisa noted some of the items included under Generosity Team may change. It is unknown whether the Crop Walk will take place again, and Deacon Janie noted it is likely Lunch at First will no longer be held.

Pastor Lisa said she is planning to create a Generosity Team within LCC to further address and grow the efforts of the groups under this category.

Christian Education

Deacon Janie has created an Education Committee, which covers all of the education in the church from children through adult. The committee has begun meeting to address the educational needs of the church and its members.

Congregational Operations

This includes Helping Hands, which is an active committee/group within the church, as well as monthly events. Krisi suggested the Council host another "To-Go" breakfast this spring. The Council is looking into hosting the breakfast on May 9, Mother's Day, and donating the money raised through a free will donation to Camp of the Cross as part of the month's "Mother the Camp" focus.

Additional Council Discussions

Increasing Insurance Rates

Art brought to the attention of the Council he had received notice from Bain Insurance that the Church's current insurance coverage costs had jumped nearly 60 percent in price, due to a change in the policy regarding wood-framed construction. Bain insurance is currently looking into new policy options to present to the church Council.

Maundy Thursday Meal

Pastor Lisa noted with two Maundy Thursday services, she would like to feed the "Living Last Supper" participants. The Council approved her ordering food to feed the performance volunteers between services.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Lisa led the Council in a closing prayer.