

Ascension Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Minutes

Littleton, Colorado

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Email

In attendance:

Council Members: Linda Achziger, Allen Brookshire, Connie Fringer, Norm Fringer, Sherry Hitztaler, Kathy Johnson, Roger Koester, Pastor John Larson, Don Loptien, Joyce Lord, Tim McClaren, Carol Stamp, Rev. Michael Zehnder

Call to Order: In light of the unprecedented circumstances with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the governmental requirement for social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus, a special virtual Council meeting was called in the following manner. At 11:37 a.m., President Arvin Michel sent the following e-mail to members of Ascension Council:

"Dear Council,

First, I hope and pray that all of you all doing well and staying healthy and we ask for the Lord's mercy that our well-being continues.

We have a couple of items that require Council action. Rather than calling a special sit-down meeting of Council, I am asking you for your support to handle these items by e-mail communication. I see nothing in the Bylaws allowing for such a thing nor prohibiting it. With your concurrence, we can call a special remote meeting, then get informed on the issue, answer any questions, and then vote. When we have a quorum voting, we can then adjourn that remote meeting.

Please respond immediately if you concur with this action or if you do not. We may have to spend some special time at the computer until we complete each item, but we can do this safely. Recording of any transactions can be done in upcoming Minutes after we again meet regularly.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Arvin Michel"

A "Yes" response was received from Carol Stamp, Pastor John Larson, Michael Zehnder, Norm & Connie Fringer, Sherry Hitztaler, Allen Brookshire, Tim McClaren, Roger Koester, Kathy Johnson, Collin Brinkman, and Don Loptien. Joyce Lord and Linda Achziger were contacted by phone and provided "Yes" responses. Joyce subsequently verified her response by e-mail. Brian & Marion Wilson were unavailable to be contacted by phone.

Since a quorum of 10 Council members was reached, President Michel called the virtual meeting to order at 2:27 p.m. by e-mail.

New Business

Virus Fund – Pastor John Larson

- Pastor John Larson presented the following motion:

*"I make a **motion** to establish a "Virus Fund" in the amount of \$25,000.00 to assist both members of Ascension Lutheran Church and our community with their physical and financial needs. \$5,000.00 would come from the Thrivent Choice Dollars Account (03-29) and \$20,000.00 would be taken from the account of the Prior Years' Surplus (03-22)." Tim McClaren seconded the motion.*

Discussion:

Question: "Who would be the administrator(s) of the fund (i.e. Pastor, and/or a Board)?"

Answer: Pastor responded, "I have asked Kathy Johnson to chair this Virus Fund Committee. She has accepted this assignment. I have asked the Social Ministry Committee to serve with her to oversee the distribution of funds."

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As there was no further discussion, President Arvin Michel requested “Yes” or “No” votes to the motion. “Yes” votes were received from Linda Achziger, Collin Brinkman, Allen Brookshire, Connie Fringer, Roger Koester, Pastor John Larson, Don Loptien, Tim McClaren, and Arvin Michel. There were no votes against the motion. With the meeting concluded at 8:45 PM and having received more than a majority affirmative vote, the **motion was approved**.

Adjournment

- Having completed the business at hand, President Arvin Michel declared the virtual meeting adjourned by e-mail at 8:45 p.m.

---Respectfully Submitted by Tim McClaren, Secretary