

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Vision Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024

Present: Pastor Dave Mesner, Jess Kramer, Lauren Nyenhuis, Missy Bergman, Dave Larsen, Cole Peterson, Seth Loeffler-Kemp, Cindy Venberg

Not Present: Janean Tucker, Karen Pagel Guerndt

Special Guest: Eric Kaiser

Agenda

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

Welcome to Missy Bergman!

Devotions: Cyndi Venberg

Deeper Welcome to Missy (and Janean!)

Debriefing regarding the Annual Meeting-

- Microphones should be given to anyone speaking next year
- It is important that everyone is able to say what they want to say
- Consider adding a person designated as Parliamentarian
- VC members discussed congregation member comments and the passions that support those comments

Constitution/Bylaw description of each elected position- Pastor Dave

Election of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer

- Cole P. made a motion to nominate Seth Loeffler Kemp; Missy B. seconded. Dave L. moved to close nominations, Missy B. seconded. Members voted unanimously to elect Seth as President.
- Cyndi made a motion to nominate Lauren N. for Vice-President; Jess K. seconded. Cole moved to close the nominations; Dave seconded. Members voted unanimously to elect Lauren as Vice-President.
- Lauren nominated Jess K. for secretary; Missy B. seconded. Dave L. moved to close nominations. Members voted unanimously to elect Jess K. for Secretary.
- Missy B. nominated Dave L. for Treasurer; Lauren seconded. Missy B. motioned to close nominations; unanimously passed. Members voted unanimously to elect Dave L. as Treasurer.
- Dave L. made a motion to remove Cole Peterson as signatory and add President Seth Loeffler-Kemp as a signatory. Jess K. seconded the motion. Members unanimously passed the signatory change.

Introduction to Interim and Pastoral Call Processes- Pastor Dave

- Pastor Dave described next steps and timeline in accordance with the document Northeastern Minnesota Synod FIVE STEPS OF CALL PROCESS.
- Sunday, April 28 will be Pastor Dave's last Sunday. Tuesday, April 30th will be his last official day. The Interim Pastor will begin on Wednesday, May 1st.
- It is important for the congregation to know there cannot be any pastoral crossover. Once the interim pastor starts, it will be unethical for Good Shepherd members to ask Pr. Dave to do any pastoral ministry.

- VC members will need to speak clearly about what kind of an interim pastor LCGS is in need of when they meet with Bishop Amy. It is not unusual to have an interim pastor from outside of the Synod. The length of Interim Pastor is flexible and determined by the readiness of the congregation.
- There are current congregational members who were involved in the [2003 Transition Task Force](#) who would be good resources for this process. Vision Council will communicate with Bishop Amy about what kind of interim pastor LCGS is seeking. An Intentional Interim Pastor will then begin working at LCGS. Next, a Transition Task Force is formed. This group will meet to inform the Call Committee.
- It will be the role of Vision Council Members to provide stability, transparency, and clarity to the members of LCGS.

Lent Midweek Worship Request- Pastor Dave and Seth L-K.

Vision Council Members should send dates that they are available to participate in Lenten Worship services to Pastor Dave and Seth L-K..

- Dates are Feb 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20
- 2 adults, 2 confirmands on a “panel”
- Each person speaks 2-3 minutes on the question of the night
- Cole/Jess/Missy/Cyndi will attend on March 6 to help with the dinner; Cyndi will investigate price of sandwiches and communicate with Vision Council Members

Land Acknowledgement Statement- Pastor Dave

- Pastor Dave read the LCGS Land Acknowledgement that he and Katie have suggested during the season of Lent.
- Cyndi Venberg motioned for the Vision Council to approve having the LCGS Land Acknowledgement read at the beginning of Wednesday Lenten services as well as having an explanation of this in the bulletin. Missy B. seconded the motion. Discussion included the importance of having future conversations about this topic. Vision Council Members voted unanimously to close discussion and the motion was unanimously passed.

RIC feedback and Process Moving Forward- Eric Kaiser

- VC needs to create an ALL ARE WELCOME committee separate from ROLT.
- VC should be looking comprehensively at how we can COORDINATE the teams and COLLABORATE on how we can be welcoming to all.
- Reconciling in Christ needs to be part of the collaborative calendar. While we have “checked the boxes” in becoming a RIC congregation, we have not integrated it into our systems and processes. (We are missing the systems and processes.)

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- Monday, March 18 6:30pm- Dave L. Devotions
- Monday, April 22, 6:30pm- Cole Devotions
- Monday, May 13, 6:30pm- Jess Devotions

Vision Council adjourned with Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Jess Kramer, Secretary, LCGS Vision Council

