

## Lutheran Church of the Incarnation Council Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023, 7:00 pm

Council Member Roster: Tim Paulson (2026), Vern Holmes (2025), Kathryn Schnaible (2026), Jenny Fortuna (2025), Karl Larson (2024), Bob Kerr (2025), Kenny Doss (2026), Ralph Holderbein (2024), Karen Slabaugh (2024), Pr. Dan Smith, and Rob Williamson

### A. Introduction: Tim (2 min)

Tim & Ralph provide a picture and brief bio for the LCI website.

### B. Opening Prayer: Rob (2 min)

### C. Faith Story: Kenny (10 min)

### D. Pastor's Report: Pastor Dan (5 min) Attached.

Bishop installation Dec 9

### E. Approval of October Council meeting minutes: Jenny (2 min) Attached.

Tim Motion to Approve; Kenny Second; Vote 7-0-0. Jenny to send to Lindsey to post to the website.

### F. Council Action Items: (30 min)

Advance Congregational Goals:

- 1) Increase visibility & engagement with the community
- 2) Increase attendance at worship & other programs
  - a. Extend invitations to events (digital)
  - b. Visible information - outreach committee
  - c. Canvassing (teams)
  - d. Asking 3 people
- 3) Improve operational and financial efficiencies - December discussion

### G. President's Report: Tim (20 min)

- 1) Bill of Responsibility: Each council member shared various responsibilities that they have for our church. (e.g. golden rule, more active member, council, support youth, health/future of LCI, outreach, stewardship, mental health, work/life balance).

### H. Committee and other Reports (5 min)

- 1) Liturgical Furnishings Committee report attached. Karen Motion to Approve a removable fabric artwork installation behind the altar. Jenny Second. Vote: 7-0-0.
- 2) Social Justice Committee report attached.

### J. Other Business: (25 mins)

- 1) Celebration of Abraham: Pastor Dan to join planning committee. Find out date for January. Create plan for hosting a safe community event at LCI.
- 2) New Policy Statement: Wednesday Announcements must be vetted & approved by Committee Chairs and submitted to LCI Office. Tim Motion to Approve. Kathryn Second. Vote: 7-0-0. Jenny to notify Chairs of this new policy.
- 3) Budget Allocations for Committee Spending: LCI Committees are allowed to spend up to \$250 annually without council approval. Committees to submit receipts for reimbursement. Kathryn to communicate policy to committee chairs. Kathryn Motion for Approval. Karen Second. Vote: 7-0-0.
- 4) Exterior Sanctuary lights have a bad controller. John Huegeli to request a quote to fix it. Ralph to investigate solution.

- 5) Grounds committee is requesting support to hire a semi-annual clean-up crew to keep yard work manageable. Kathryn to provide line item for 2024 budget.
- 6) Pastor's Sabbatical Committee meeting Nov 15.
- 7) DLC cookie decorating party Nov 24 and Advent party Dec 10.
- 8) Pillar Chair calendar meeting January 7.

**Next Executive Council Meeting = December 5 at 6pm**

**Jenny to send out Agenda = December 10**

**Next Council Meeting = December 12 at 7pm**

## **Pastor's Report to Council**

Lutheran Church of the Incarnation

Pastor Dan Smith; Nov. 14, 2023

### **Information Items:**

My adult forum class on *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* has concluded, and now I am teaching a two-week series on Israel and Palestine, including photos from my sabbatical in 2017. It began last Wed and is scheduled to conclude Wed, Nov. 15 at 7:00pm.

**Confirmation:** classes are underway... Lindsey and I are teaching about Moses and the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures. We visited the synagogue to meet the new Rabbis and learn about "Torah" – the Hebrew law and how it is read as part of worship.

**Advent midweek services** begin Wed, December 6, with soup supper preceding. We are having these together with Davis Lutheran, more info to follow about exactly location. Soup supper should be 6:00pm, following by evening prayer at around 6:45 (stay tuned).

### **In the wider church:**

The installation of our new Bishop, **Rev. Jeff Johnson** will be Saturday, December 9 at 11:00am, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Walnut Creek. All are invited to attend. Let me know if you would like to carpool.

Keeping you all in prayer – please let me know if you have any special pastoral care needs. I am available for pastoral care, with you or others in the congregation. You can call, email or text me if you would like to schedule a pastoral visit.

## Liturgical Furnishings Task Force Proposal to Council

As I shared with you in our report in October, Pastor Dan and Carol Huegeli had met with an artist to design and craft a permanent fabric installation for the walls surrounding the altar area. Marjan Kluepfel, is the artist, and she has proposed the following design. The Task Force has endorsed this design.



She describes this work as three quilts. The quilts on the sides are 3'x7' with a tree trunk and leaves facing the center. The third quilt is 5.5'x3.5' where you see those branches coming together. This reflects our theme of the river and the tree of life. The expected cost of this work is \$5,000. Marjan anticipates being complete this by Easter (March 31)

**We ask the Council's approval of this permanent fabric installation.**

Pending your approval, I will make a series of announcements to the congregation about what we will be doing, when we expect installation, how much it will cost, and ask for special offerings to cover that cost.

# Social Justice Committee

## Annual Report 2023

We are a multi-faceted ministry that seeks to be the church outside the four walls of our church building. Our current focuses are on serving our unhoused neighbors in our local community and engaging in public policy advocacy, but we have had involvements in all of the areas listed below. We welcome your input and participation!

### Public Policy Advocacy

We are called to address the structural causes of injustice and suffering and do this by monthly letter writing campaigns and through cooperation with Lutheran Office of Public Policy. This year, we also held a book study in April on *Rising out Hatred: the awakening of a former white nationalist* by Eli Saslow. This was followed by a discussion of the movie “Best of Enemies” in October. Both of these are part of an ongoing program to raise awareness of racial injustice in the US,

### Local Community Outreach

We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus in places of need in our local community. Our current focus is on providing support to the Davis Respite Center but we have also been involved with the Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter, Yolo County Food Bank, Lutheran Social Services, 4<sup>th</sup> & Hope, Davis Community Meals & Housing and Grace in Action. We coordinate the Monthly Ministry Partner Program. This year we coordinated with HEART to provide food for the winter congregate shelter.

### Environmental Stewardship

We are called to be good stewards of the planet and to use its resources in God-honoring ways, starting in our local context. This has included involvement in Cool Davis and Green Faith in the past.

### Immigration

We are called to welcome the stranger among us. This has included participation in AMPARRO, Apo Yolo, the Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network and Opening Doors.

### Interfaith Dialogue & Interfaith Projects

We are called to reach out in love across religious boundaries. This has entailed participation in Celebration of Abraham, Interfaith Housing Justice Davis and other interfaith efforts.