

EASTSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMUNITY
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 2025; 4pm - Zoom meeting

***Preliminary Vision:** Together, we are a faith community stewarding our abundant resources both spiritual and physical to amplify the impact within our neighborhoods for the sake of the Gospel while empowering the body of Christ to be inviting, inclusive and nurturing.

Attendees: Courtney Bailey, Jack Boller, Bill Brueggemann, Carolynn Ferris, Tom Getzinger, Pastor Mark Griffith, Pastor Krista Johnson, Anne Rankin, Wendy Turner, Colin Walker, Jane Prestbye, Gary Rothenburger

The following ELCC Advisory Board Officers were elected:

- President - Carolynn Ferris
- Vice President – Colin Walker
- Secretary - Anne Rankin
- Treasurer - Bill Brueggemann

The Board discussed whether the Biblical Stores would continue to be foundational to this Advisory Board.

- **Biblical Stories:** Matthew 14 (feeding of the 5,000) and Acts 2:42 (communal life).
- The group felt they ground us in theological vision
- A sub-committee could be formed to review

DISCUSSION

A question was raised whether the **vision and mission are to guide the Advisory Board or the ELCC body?**

- The board agreed they are the vision and mission of the ELCC.

An idea was posed for consideration –

- Heidi Francis is at Our Saviors LC in Everett and is available for an internship
- We have an opportunity to create an internship for her with the ELCC
- It could be helpful to have her work across the congregations and she could be our first shared Staff person
- The Synod is open to this consideration
- It could be a great learning opportunity for Heidi to be in the midst of this ELCC work in a learning context
- A question was raised of how we would compensate Heidi
- Jane suggested we first need to consider how the ELCC will build collective identity and collective witness before deciding we need a staff person
- Colin proposed we need a job description before we go further and we should also think about other resources who might fill this role
- It was agreed there is no urgency to this decision; We have things to ponder and consider before hiring someone.

Around the idea of our **collective witness** Pastor Krista asked whether we might start by our congregations **aligning our studies, lectionaries, a series, etc and commit to 6-8 weeks of combined study and worship**

Tom asked for **clarity around our mission statement and what the ELCC is trying to do.**

The board discussed some possible goals:

- Common planning, common themes, calendaring, communication; eventually consolidate a distribution list for the ELCC newsletter

Courtney's vision is that we will be moving in the right direction if we get to 12 months from now and

- **Congregants at each church know where to get info** and
- **They've been to events at other churches,**
- **Communications flow is strong and congregants know what we're striving for**
- **We have shared liturgies,** plus,
- **People want to go get this information;**
- We've gotten **our congregations** to get **excited about the ELCC** and
- **New relationships are formed within our org and forming broader relationships;**

Bill added that the vision should include

- how we use this communications tool **for the community: across Bellevue and the Eastside so people see a vibrant Lutheran community.**

We discussed that we need to make sure we're including our **missional development places:**

- Pastor Wendy Cheung (Cross of Christ); seek potential Advisory Board participant
- Grace Chinese (SHLC)

Our Advisory Board should balance big thinking for the future (blue sky committee for big ideas), while also working the near-term tactical items.

ELCC Committees - What committees should be formed?

- **Communication subcommittee:** Kathy, Courtney, Johannes, and Pr Krista. We also need reps from the other churches
- **Need to establish a Calendaring subcommittee** that gets practical about what we're doing – Day of Service, Outdoor worship, In addition, we want to start to identify and populate ELCC-wide events.
 - Advisory board owns the vision of the ELCC calendar
 - The ELCC website has been established where we can house the common calendar;
 - Kathy at St. Andrews owns the ELCC calendar and website today. Courtney and others could be given admin rights.
 - Each congregation could add individual events with invitations to other congregations.

Future ELCC Advisory Board Meetings

- The group decided we will meet the **last Thursday of each month on Zoom**; occasionally in person
- We will plan an in-person retreat for some time this Spring

Pastor Krista closed us in prayer.