

February 2017 Newsletter for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

On Being a Council Member

As you discern whether you are called to be on Church Council at this time, here is some information to help you in your decision.

In I Corinthians 12:27-28 Paul makes reference to the various offices that were present in that congregation: "apostles, prophets, teachers...forms of assistance, forms of leadership..." and so on. He says that each is called to fill the roles they fill for the good of the body, which is the congregation. This leads directly into his famous "love chapter" where he says, in effect, that love binds all these roles together into a harmonious whole.

While we have many roles in our congregation (those who help in various aspects of the worship, those who teach, those who pray, etc.), the formal leadership roles are laid out in our congregational Constitution & Bylaws.

They are the Pastor (Bylaw 4 "The Office of the Ministry") and the Church Council (Bylaw 6 "Congregational Council and its Officers"; Bylaw 7 "Duties of the Congregational Council and its Officers").

The Bylaws stipulate that there must be at least 6 members of Council. Terms are for 3 years, unless someone is serving out a partial term when replacing someone who had to leave Council before their term was up.

The officers of the Council are listed as: chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and financial secretary.

The chairperson's job is to chair meetings and set up the agenda in consultation with the pastor. The vice-chair's job is to step in when the chair is not available. The secretary's job is to take and publish the minutes. The treasurer's job is to "have custody of all

the funds of the congregation" and to pay all the bills. The financial secretary's job is to record the donations and issue tax receipts.

The Council elects its officers after each Annual General Meeting. The treasurer and financial secretary do not need to be on Council, and currently neither Debbie Jones nor Shelley Eberle are.

The remainder of the members of Council are at large. Just as with the officers, Council members agree among themselves who will look after the various areas or responsibility, such as property & maintenance, outreach, learning, etc. The Council has the authority to establish such committees as it deems necessary to carry out the work of the congregation. These committees may or may not include members of Council.

Hopefully that gives you some insight and help in your decision.