

St Stephen Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2022

Mira Stearns called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm via ZOOM.

Present: Patsy Olson, Betsy Clark, Marla Amborn, Ken Smith, Mira Stearns, John Rohr, Judee Bramscher

Absent: Pastor Jim Woodruff

Devotions: Marla Amborn – Marla lead the council in an opening prayer.

Prayer Concerns: No prayer concerns mentioned.

Approval of Minutes: No changes. Minutes for March council meeting were voted on.

A motion was made by Mira Stearns 2nd Ken Smith, to approve the March 2022 council minutes. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Adjustments to the Agenda:

ADD - Discussion on in-person versus continuing with ZOOM for council meetings. Added as last item under New Business.

Treasurer's Report – Patsy Olson

Balance Sheet: Total cash assets: Checking \$130,546.50; Savings \$32,754.52. Grand total (which includes CDs) \$211,550.93.

Benevolence Fund: Net income \$4,864.18. Last year at this time net income was \$1,258.07. Patsy is doing journal entries for Tanzania expenses monthly to better spread it over the year.

Capital Fund: Net income \$104,512.20. We have already approved for capital funds for the furnace replacement. Last year at this time we had a net income of \$126,771.72 last year (before we paid for furnaces last year).

Cash Reserve: Net income \$31,644.29.

Current Fund: Total income \$86,675.69. Expenses \$99,765.57. Net income deficit \$-13,089.88. Net income same time last year was positive \$6,324.25. This year we had a carryover of \$9,139.16, last year carryover balance was \$20,614.74. Expenses are little lower this year as compared to last year.

Special Designated Fund:

Special designated accts \$24,284.12; Funding accts \$19,197.88; Tanzania accts \$22,032.30; Tecate acct \$2,900; Special designated memorial accts \$16,833.85; TOTAL NET INCOME \$85,248.15

A motion was made by Mira Stearns, 2nd by Betsy Clark, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Jim Woodruff (not present)

Items in Pastor Jim's report will be covered under New Business.

Ministry Team Reports:

Property – Ken Smith. Ken has put together a property committee. Paul Swanson, custodian, will be on that committee.

No other Ministry Team reports.

A motion was made by Patsy Olsons, 2nd by John Rohr to approve Pastor and Ministry Team reports. Voted on and carried unanimously.

New Business:

Good Friday Offering – Good Friday offering (loose plate ONLY) will be given for Ukraine relief (ELCA, Eastern European Crisis Relief). Joint worship service with Redeemer. We received over \$2,000 in the door offering received in March worship service.

Live Stream Update & Proposal – Marla Amborn

Digital ministry grant submitted to the ELCA was not approved (grant for \$6,200). Need estimated \$6,200. Have maybe \$5,100 in other special designated accounts that can be used for this purpose (areas from audiovisual sound, digital ministry, One56 CD fundraiser. Will need additional approximate \$1,000 from capital funds.

A motion was made by Marla Amborn, 2nd by Ken Smith, to approve taking remaining money needed (up to \$2,000) from capital fund for the sound video system. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Peace Pole update – Mira Stearns

Quote was given. Pick up to 8 languages for the pole. We have around \$1,365 in the two special designated accounts for Lorna and Wendell Peck. Roughly \$1,100 for 8 languages. Still working through which languages will be included. There is a group that is looking at what languages to include. Council agrees with 8 languages.

Tanzania Trip – Mira Stearns

Trip will be May 24 through June 6. Pastor Juli and Jim will be traveling with the group. Pastor Marla Amborn will be leading worship and preaching May 25, May 29, June 5. Pastor Mike Peterson from Redeemer will lead worship and preach on Wednesday June 1. Marla will be available for Pastoral care during that time if the need arises.

Zoom versus in-person Council meetings – Mira Stearns

Don't mind hybrid but it can be challenging with in person and then a couple of people calling in. Need someone who has computer who has a camera in the room. Last month Judee couldn't participate because of computer issues. But John has difficulty coming because of ride issues. If we do in person we

will have to have hybrid capability to allow all people to attend. John asked if someone is willing to drive his van and bring him to the meeting. Marla, Ken, Patsy willing to drive John. Marla not available for July. Marla willing to pick up John May and June. Ken will do July. Patsy willing to drive John as well, especially for Wednesday night service. We will have in-person meeting in May. Marla will pick up John for May council meeting.

Old Business:

Adding 3 council member update – Mira Stearns

Nominating committee will be meeting Friday April 29 to discuss open council seats. How can we be more proactive to get people to say yes? Council will like Betsy to ask Cindy Scott. We should speak on what each person's strengths are. Help people recognize that the ministry of the church relies on the members of the church, not just the pastor. Commitment to council is not an overwhelming commitment, it's manageable, and a way to help the church. Mira offered to talk about council positions during announcements during a Sunday and Wednesday service. Congregation needs to be aware that we are missing people and council can't function without the members. Need liaisons to ministry teams. Have people there in service raise their hand if they have or are currently serving on council. Thank them for their service, we still need people to serve. We should know which liaison positions are open. Have that list available. Nominating committee should put together talking points that can be used when asking people to be on council.

Ukrainian fundraiser – Marla Amborn

Got over \$2,000 at the last service. Looking at another cash offering on the Good Friday services. Loose plate cash will be donated. We have had good support for this effort. The people came through.

Synod Assembly Rep (May 13-14) – Mira

Still need a male rep. Pastor Jim was going to ask Ted Field. Mira will email Ted. What about Tom Scott as another alternative? Mira will contact Ted first before reaching out to Tom.

Update on Many Faces – Mira Stearns

Mira will be going to their April meeting to get St. Stephen officially registered. Next council meeting Mira will have more information.

Furnace update – Mira Stearns

Have contract with Yale signed to replace the original furnace.

Synod grant update – Marla Amborn

Applied for grant, didn't get it. 74 applications received for 19 grants that were given out. They didn't give us a reason. The Synod was surprised by how many requests they got. We gave a solid effort.

Review meeting highlights:

- 1) Peace pole
- 2) Good Friday offering going to the ELCA Eastern European Crisis Relief
- 3) Live stream equipment update
- 4) Tanzania trip pastoral coverage update
- 5) Need for Council members

A motion was made by Mira Stearns, 2nd by John Rohr, to close the Council meeting. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Adjourn at 8:06 pm

Close with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Clark