

St Stephen Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes, May 9, 2022

Mira Stearns called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm in person

Present: Pastor Jim Woodruff, Patsy Olson, Betsy Clark, Ken Smith, Mira Stearns, John Rohr (via ZOOM), Judee Bramscher

Guest: Melissa Whitman

Absent: Marla Amborn

Devotions: Pastor Jim.

Reading from Mark – “Go and proclaim the good news”. We are called to go into the entire world, go outside of our walls. It’s easy to stay put, not risk going outside of those walls. Jesus commands us to go into all the world, outside of things that are familiar and comfortable. Be thinking of how that command directs our response to those ministries that we are discussing tonight.

Prayer Concerns: Mavis Garrett; Paul, brother-in-law to John Rohr; Karen Smith (her back is bad); George Frantzen; Jordan Hull and his family on the death of his mom; pray for safe travels for those traveling to Tanzania.

Approval of Minutes: No changes to the minutes. Minutes for April council meeting were voted on.

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

Adjustments to the Agenda:

1) Under New Business. Marla not here, push “drawn to the word” to next month’s meeting.

2) Under Old Business. Peace pole update will be done by Jim, not Mira.

Treasurer’s Report – Patsy Olson

Balance Sheet: Total cash assets: Checking \$114,071.39. Savings \$32,760.33. CDs \$6,501.03; \$17,647.27; \$17,647.27; \$19,122.26. Grand total \$195,102.28.

Benevolence Fund: Net income \$1,878.95. Expenses of note: Synod & ELCA \$4,000; Lukani \$1,466.68; Tekate \$400. Total donation to Ukraine through the ELCA \$2,699.

Capital Fund: Net income \$106,187.14.

Cash Reserve: Net income \$31,905.79.

Current Fund: Total income \$109,058.82. Expenses \$133,289.99. Net income deficit \$-24,231.17. Net income same time last year was positive \$6,324.25. Compared to pre-COVID 2019, we are still doing better off. However, we did not have a carryover of cash like we did this year.

Special Designated Fund:

Special designated accts \$24,330.36; Funding accts \$19,197.88; Tanzania accts \$17,727.49; Tecate acct \$2,900; Special designated memorial accts \$16,833.85; TOTAL NET INCOME \$80,989.58.

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

Pastor's Report – Pastor Jim Woodruff

Holy week – went very well. Lower attendance in line with what we expected. Really good, combined service on Good Friday. Easter service sanctuary full. Last Saturday, Fools Fundraising Gala, around \$4,500 raised.

May 22, volunteer recognition Sunday, reception after that service.

May 24-June 6 TZ mission trip. Marla Amborn will fill in with preaching and pastoral care while Pastors are gone.

June 1 (if weather okay, maybe May 25), outdoor BBQ and GAP to start

3 property issues (all on agenda later on but will discuss them here:

Yale Mechanical – They are scheduling projects now. Todd Jelle, Project Manager, will get back to us with definitive dates for furnace replacement.

Z-Systems – Jim has contacted them to let them know about purchasing the remote digital system. Project manager is currently on vacation. Will provide dates for installation. Still waiting for outdoor speakers. Just need to purchase them at Metro Sound and Lighting. Want to add one MIC in sanctuary. Anticipating around \$6,000 total. Should have enough money without additional fundraising.

Peace pole ordered – Eight languages chosen: English, German, Swahili, Aramaic, Spanish, Vietnamese, Swedish, Dakota. Should be in soon. Tom Scott will install it. Will be getting three benches to install as well.

Ministry Team Reports:

No Ministry Team reports tonight.

Patsy said that Tami has started advertising for some events that we aren't planning on doing:

- Night-to-Unite (Patsy is not in town and neither is Betsy);
- Music Festival and Auction (we discussed that we should be focusing asking people for money for other events, like the Endowment fund; we should not overwhelm people)
- Trunks N' Treats (Melissa is not ready to advertise this yet). Betsy asked Jim to discuss this at the staff meeting tomorrow.

Patsy also needs pulpit supply information and musician fill-in in so she can pay them while Pastor Jim is gone to Tanzania.

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

New Business:

Live Stream installation update – Pastor Jim gave this update in his Pastor’s report.

Special Olympics Young Athletes Program – Melissa Whitman

Program is from June 16 through August 4 for kids ages 2-7. Open to kids with cognitive disabilities in addition to inviting their peers. FREE, supplies given, we supply space and volunteers. Redeemer will be participating in this and Melissa encouraged St Stephen to participate as well. Christ the King is also participating. We need to find 2-3 volunteers (ages 16 and older) to commit to helping during those dates (June 16 through August 4, once a week on Thursday 10:00 – 10:45 am. Commitment for volunteer should be 9:45 to 11:00 am. Quarterly, one of each church should be a host site to run a session. Summer session will be at Redeemer. Hopefully the goal is that a church hosts quarterly and rotate among the churches. Melissa would like Marla Amborn to help with recruiting volunteers for this (over age 16). It seems to fit better under the Congregational and Community Care Ministry Team. Goal is 9 volunteers to accommodate 36 kids. If there is rain – fellowship hall in redeemer. Activities are physical, learning how to balance, hopping, coordination, etc. Volunteers will have one three-hour training session the end of May or beginning of June provided by Special Olympics. Melissa will provide Tami with information on needing volunteers. Tami will be point contact. Melissa will have Andrew involved to promote on Facebook.

A motion was made by Pastor Jim, 2nd by Patsy Olson that the church council support this effort and immediately begin recruiting three volunteers through our normal channels. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Community Outreach Dinner Church – Melissa Whitman

Idea is a weekly gathering to eat and pray and have conversation. Outreach. Not inside the church. Redeemer is asking to partner with St Stephen. Reach disenfranchised followers of Christ but have it in location that is neutral ground. Lots of people don’t want to come into church, reasons valid. Will be weekly on Sunday evenings. Targeting families but open to everyone. Not worship and music. It is outreach. Sit in a square to see everyone, prayer. If any singing, no accompanist. Pastor will present topic (4–6-week series), brief sermon, as a group, discuss what you hear, how does that work in your life, etc. Pastor regroups everyone, more discussion. Everyone is part of the service eating a meal. Meal is the Eucharist. Incorporate service projects into this throughout the year. Children are a part of this. Won’t offer Sunday school. Have a list of both churches’ activities for them to see it but not goal for them to attend church. Goal is outreach to people. We are not growing membership at either church. Just a meeting of people. Have it at one of the elementary schools. Lakeaires or Matoska. Have to have a janitor available for us Sunday evening. Another possibility is Boatworks commons, no janitor, location is not good, but could be used until janitor is found at one of the schools. We need commitment to money. Redeemer has trust fund, matching all outreach 2:1. Approved 3 months starting in September.

Has not been piloted locally. Nationally, it is a thing. Does well. Pastor Juli has committed to be the lead from our church. In August, there will be a soft launch at Redeemer with existing families in the church. Will be invitations.

Sunday evening 4:00 pm time frame. 13-15 sessions throughout the year. Pay 3 outside pastors with strong education in something. Want to seek out diverse pastors in the ELCA. Want our pastors to get into a rotation, also our retired pastors to participate, other lay people who have passion in areas.

Patsy did request liability insurance information. We can't just add on an umbrella policy. Elementary schools should have liability to cover this.

Melissa is asking St. Stephen for a 3-month commitment with monetary support of \$1,075. Any other concerns, other than raising money? Institutional situation, concern that people are connected to faith community above and beyond a dinner gathering. Does the dinner church need to become a church entity? We the institutional church need to be trying something different.

A motion was made by Pastor Jim, 2nd by Mira Stearns that St. Stephen support this dinner church and commit \$1,075 to the first quarter starting in September and evaluate quarterly. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Drawn to the Word – Marla Amborn (Marla not present so this item was tabled until next month's meeting).

Old Business:

Adding 3 Council members update – Betsy Clark

Betsy gave update on progress. Karen Smith, Cindy Scott and Betsy met and have decided to create a letter of invitation to selected individuals. Probably around 25 people (many who have been asked before). Betsy has certainly said to Karen and Cindy that they are candidates for council but Betsy did not ask Cindy directly to agree to a council position. We will get a final letter and mail out to the individuals with the intention for them to think about the invitation and one of the committee members will contact them individually to discuss this. Hope to mail out letter before leaving for Tanzania and call people some time in June.

Update on Many Faces – Mira Stearns

Mira is in the process of partnering with them. Meeting with them tomorrow. Need to know who to send the check to. Will communicate any programs that need advertising.

Good Friday Offering to Ukraine – Loose plate went to Ukraine relief. Had raised 2,500 with previous appeal. Good Friday loose plate added another \$180 to the total. \$2,699 total raised.

Furnace Update and Peace Pole Update – Pastor Jim gave these updates in his Pastor's Report

Meeting highlights – All

1. Special Olympics
2. Dinner Church

3. Capital Updates: live stream additional purchases, furnaces, peace pole purchase
4. Tanzania trip, Marla Amborn filling in with preaching and pastoral care

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

Adjourned at 8:20 pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Clark