

St Stephen Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes, July 11, 2022

Marla Amborn called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Present: Pastor Jim Woodruff, Betsy Clark, Ken Smith, John Rohr, Judee Bramscher, Patsy Olson

Absent: Mira Stearns

Devotions – Pastor Jim. Thoughts from the book of Colossians. I'm struck repeatedly by the thankfulness that is expressed and encouraged by Paul of the people of Colossae. Paul begins his letter by encouraging them to give thanks and endure persecutions by joyfully giving thanks. Be thankful, clothe yourselves with love, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. Thankfulness is good for us to foster. We can look at life and not begrudge but find a reason to be thankful. Above all, that we are thankful that we belong to Jesus.

Prayer Concerns: John's mom Blanche having surgery; Patsy's daughter Beth struggling with new staffing at her residence; Annette Johnson in rehab for knee replacement; Mavis Garrett in hospice still doing great cheerful; Lukani had their fundraiser yesterday raised 11.1 million TSH; prayers for the Volmer family on the death of Donna Volmer.

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

A motion was made by Ken Smith 2nd by John Rohr, to approve the June 2022 council minutes. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Two things added to NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Dedication plaque – 1 min (Pastor Jim)
- 2) Report from the endowment committee – 2-3 min (Pastor Jim)

Treasurer's Report – Patsy Olson

Balance Sheet: Total cash assets: Checking \$108,286.66. Savings \$32,768.41. 4 CDs totaling \$48,270.56. Grand total \$189,325.63.

Benevolence Fund: Net income balance of \$1,891.49. Expenses of note: ELCA mission support \$1,000; Tecate \$100; journal entry for support for the TZ mission trip and TZ scholarships.

Capital Fund: Net income \$111,045.13. Continue to anticipate withdrawal of around \$35,000 for next furnace project. Still waiting for date.

Cash Reserve: Net income \$34,935.29.

Current Fund: Total income \$156,552.50. Expenses \$197,946.59. Net income deficit \$-41,394.09. Patsy noted there were no unusual expenses. We looked at the Current Income & Expenses Compared to Last Year Report. There was an error in the report so totals at the end of the report did not print (#REF!).

ACTION: Patsy will send out a revised Comparison report to council members with corrected numbers.

Special Designated Fund:

Special designated accts \$30,871.97; Funding accts \$25,672.88; Tanzania accts \$13,895.61; Tecate acct \$2,900; Special designated memorial accts \$11,135.36; TOTAL NET INCOME \$84,475.82.

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

Pastor's Report – Pastor Jim Woodruff

Well into our summer events. Next month, bunch of youth events scheduled. Youth mission trip July 24-30 to Springfield, MO. VBS August 8-12. VBS be held at St. Stephen but as a partnership among St. Stephen, Redeemer, and Christ the King WBL. Tuesday of that week will be election day so that may complicate things.

Furnace installation – Todd Jelle project manager has stated that we are next in line after completion of a project they are doing. Hopefully will start around July 18. We have told them we can't have any work during August 8-12 (VBS). Hopefully will be done before then.

Peace poles – both have arrived, for front entrance and rain garden. Also three benches have arrived (two front, one in rain garden).

Ministry Team Reports:

Property – Ken Smith. An actual property committee exists now – 5 members on committee (Ted Schaff, Mike Trenda, Tom Scott, Paul Swanson, Ken Smith). Next Thursday, Mike Trenda has friend who works with roofs. Plan on getting a few people to supply additional opinions on what repairs are needed for roof. Entryway was discussed, benches, peace pole. Want everything up first before we discuss what we want to do with dressing up the support posts.

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

New Business:

Midyear finance report – Patsy Olson

Patsy presented table with the actual income and expenses for the last 7 years. Provided the average of income, expenses and net income for the last 7 years and it is very much in line. Patsy looks for things that seem odd, has not come anything odd with our current funding. Marla appreciated seeing this, gives her some perspective.

Potential special project – Patsy/Jim

List of potential projects that people have wanted to do. There are several items on the list. Those that are being worked on are marked "in process." Jim said that the oil candles under miscellaneous projects (W/M) should be removed. Long term projects of parking lot, roof most likely will require a loan to accomplish them. Kitchen projects. There is not money for all these projects currently. Large fridge in kitchen has a mold problem, doors don't stay closed. Sink should have 3 wells or two wells and a dishwasher. We don't have room for 3 wells and a dishwasher. If we got a new dishwasher it should be

elevated. Council members discussed that some of these projects have gone over budget (peace poles/benches; kitchen projects). Those in charge of those areas need to keep an eye on their spending and realize that the funding is not always there. Any special appeals for fundraisers (which Council is not advocating right now due to the Endowment fund push), needs to go through council for approval.

Discussion on Music Festival – Pastor Jim

Would like the Festival to happen. Betsy in agreement. Has begun to make calls. Darin Hansen on board to assist with the computer work. Have left message with Jodie Millard on food. Has gotten music. Date will be October 8. After discussion, Patsy volunteered her and Ken. Ken Smith volunteered to make one of the soups (Wild Rice and Smoked Salmon). Patsy suggested doing a Pasta Fagioli soup. Betsy will get menu info to Patsy. Betsy will keep auction pretty much the same to make it easier for her.

Discussion on fall activities - ALL

- 1) Auction October 8
- 2) Holly Boutique Nov 12
- 3) Thanksgiving Nov 24

Staff met with Redeemer (Kari Hosmer met with them too). Redeemer and St. Stephen joint choir – Good Friday and Thanksgiving service (Wednesday night). This year Thanksgiving service will be at Redeemer (November 23). Next year, Good Friday evening service will be at Redeemer. Would still have noon service here. WM committee needs to be aware of this. Pastor Jim will let them know.

- 4) Need to consider resuming Adult Forum. Tanzania trip could be the first one (September 18). Adult Education committee members have been Cheryl Skrypez and Ted Field.

Dinner church approval of St. Stephen space – Pastor Jim

Different form of Christian gathering. Not to be liturgical or overtones of a church worship service. Get together with people around a meal. Someone will talk about an issue and then people will discuss the issue. Alternative gathering. Partnering with Redeemer. Grown to point where we would like to give it a go in August and September. Sunday 5:00 pm day and time. Have been looking for a place away from church. Haven't been able to find an area. So will have to start out at a church. Start here in fellowship hall with a meal and do that through the Fall, until after Christmas, and then move it to Redeemer through Easter. Need council approval for Fellowship Hall and Kitchen for Sundays. Project being run by the Children, Youth and Family Ministry Group. Need for nursery? Need permission from council to use fellowship hall and kitchen on Sundays. Shared meal vs bring your own meal. May council minutes approved \$1,075 for the first quarter of 2022 to use toward this project.

A motion was made by Marla Amborn, 2nd by Ken Smith to approve the use of St. Stephen space of Fellowship Hall and Kitchen on Sunday evenings for the Dinner Church beginning in August through end of December, potentially continuing quarterly alternating with Redeemer Lutheran Church. Voted on and carried unanimously.

VBS report – Pastor Jim for Mira

Dates are set for August 8-12. Done jointly with St. Stephen, Redeemer, and Christ the King. Science Theme. Everything getting set up. Melissa has coordinated with the other churches, has all supplies.

ADDED AGENDA ITEM – Dedication plaque – Pastor Jim

Mike Trendera has requested a dedication plaque for recognition of Scott Trendera planting the original shrubs at the front entrance for his Eagle Scout project several years ago. Mike will add to the project by adding shrubs at the revised front entrance around the peace pole and benches.

A motion was made by Ken Smith, 2nd by John Rohr to approve the installation of a dedication plaque recognizing Scott Trendera's work of the previous landscaping of shrubs outside the front entrance. Voted on and carried unanimously.

ADDED AGENDA ITEM – Endowment committee – Pastor Jim.

The committee reports that they are about halfway to goal of minimum of \$25,000. Little over \$12,500 raised. Council needs to approve the addition of Denise Ashley to the committee (3 year term). Taking Kathy Stickler's place. Denise and Viki Bosin will be taking the 3-year terms, Ted Field and Lee Branwall 2-year terms, and Jill Sandvik 1-year term.

A motion was made by Ken Smith, 2nd by Marla Amborn to approve the appointment of Denise Ashley to the Endowment committee for a 3-year term replacing Kathy Stickler. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Adding 3 Council Members – Betsy Clark

Letters inviting candidates to consider council position have been mailed. Twenty-three letters sent. We have heard from Laurie Hansen. She will be moving to be closer to her daughter and was honored to be considered. Ted Field has accepted a position. Once Karen Smith and Cindy Scott are back in town, the committee will divide up the names and contact the remaining people.

Special Olympics update – ~~Pastor Jim~~ Marla Amborn for Mira

The project is going well. Melissa Whitman has gotten plenty of volunteers from St. Stephen and additional ones. More kids who have stronger special needs than Melissa anticipated. There are enough volunteers to handle the special needs.

Furnace update – Pastor Jim. Update given in the Pastor's Report.

Peace Pole update – Pastor Jim

Tom Scott and Ted Field will do the installations sometime in August. We have the two poles and three benches. We should have a dedication for the peace poles. Rally Sunday will be a good day. We should invite Peck family to attend. We should know by mid August if we will be ready for the installation. The

Peck family should be contacted as soon as completion is definite. Hopefully it will be done by Rally Sunday.

Relay For Life Update – Marla Amborn

Have raised \$3,600 so far. Have 9 people on team, 8 sponsors.

Meeting highlights – ALL

- 1) Council has appointed Denise Ashley to Endowment Committee.
- 2) VBS August 8-12, 9:00-12:00, being held jointly between St. Stephen, Redeemer, and Christ the King.
- 3) Council approved use of Fellowship Hall and Kitchen for Dinner Church on Sunday evenings starting August through December. Alternating quarterly with Redeemer. More information about this will follow.
- 4) Music Festival and Auction will be held October 8.
- 5) Furnace potentially to be installed in the next few weeks.

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

Adjourned at 8:40 pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Clark