

St Stephen Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes, September 12, 2022

Revisions October 10, 2022 (in red)

Marla Amborn (for Mira Stearns) called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Absent: Mira Stearns

Devotions: The Tanzania mission group met this morning to work on their presentation to the congregation this Sunday. Good text is from Book of Acts 1:6-8 (this was read to the council). Jim had suggested the great commission for that Sunday, but one of the members said that this is a text for non-believers. But there are two meanings to “evangelism”. One is “mission” evangelism for those who don’t believe in Jesus. Second is “parochial” evangelism. We sing about it “I love to tell the story” verse 3 especially. We talk about our mission to those who don’t believe but also to those who do believe. We are called to all people, believers and unbelievers. It’s important to be challenged in the areas that we believe.

Prayer Concerns: Mira Stearns. Families of Lorraine Birkeland and Gerhard Nelson who both passed away recently. John Rohr’s mom, Blanche, who is having neck surgery next week. Annette Johnson who has moved into assisted living.

Approval of Minutes – No changes to the minutes. Minutes for the August Council meeting were voted on.

A motion was made by Betsy Clark seconded by John Rohr to approve the August Council minutes. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Adjustments to the Agenda: There was one addition to the agenda - an update from the nominating committee which was placed in “Old Business.”

Treasurer’s Report – Patsy Olson

Balance sheet Total cash assets: Checking \$116,700.10. Savings \$32,782.43. CDs totaling \$48,291.46. Grand total \$197,773.99. We continue to be healthy.

Benevolence Fund Net income balance of \$2,054.03.

Capital Fund Net income \$115,812.13. This number does not reflect that a check was just made out for the furnace replacement for \$36,500 which will be reflected in next month’s report.

Cash Reserve Fund \$36,643.29.

Current Fund Total income is \$203,185.98. Total \$252,550.91. Deficit of (negative) \$-49,364.93. We are on par with last year.

Special Designated Funds Special Designated Accts \$24,073.32; General Funding Accts \$40,672.88. This includes the Endowment fund which is at \$25,580. This endowment money will be transferred soon once signatures have been finalized.

A motion was made by Ken Smith and seconded by Pastor Jim to approve the Treasurer's Report. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Jim Woodruff

We are going back to normal functioning, programs, processes, etc. Great VBS week with 39 kids, 15 adult volunteers. Apple pie served after service Labor Day Sunday. Rally Day went very well including the service project. All education stuff starting. Oct 1 animal blessing (Pastor Juli will be officiating), we are reviving Auction October 8. Property, Ken Smith organized a property ministry team. They've gotten to work on stuff. Furnaces turned on today, they work. Peace poles and benches installed by Tom Scott and Ted Field. Shrubs installed at the front entrance by Tom Scott and Mike Trenda. Area was seeded by Ken Smith. They will continue to work on other projects.

Endowment fund minutes were given to council for review. They have raised their initial goal, paperwork done, goal to work on follow up and presentation after fall stewardship drive. Education and familiarization of the program.

Pastor's Report – Juli Thompson

Juli's report was presented to Council for reading but not discussed.

Ministry Team reports

Lukani partnership group – Ken Smith

Check for new roof for Mkwema secondary school (government school) issued for ~~\$3,933.36~~ **\$3,900.00**. They have put the terrazzo floor in the new church. Lukani has raised a good deal of money from sources other than St. Stephen for the new work on the church. In January, U of M engineering students will be traveling to Lukani to design the water system for the final part of the village that does not have water.

Property committee – Ken Smith

Youth building exterior needs to be scraped, caulked, painted. Plan on same color as the garage. Will look for volunteers closer to when the job will be done.

A motion was made by Patsy Olson and seconded by John Rohr to approve the Pastors' and Ministry Team Reports. Voted on and carried unanimously.

New Business

Paint the Youth Building – Ken Smith

Needs to be painted. Money will come out of Capital fund. October some time. Need to look for volunteers. Will make announcement during church. Wait until closer to the time of painting.

Proposal for Communion change – Pastor Jim

CDC change – time of exposure in presence of someone with COVID 15 minutes total time. Seems safe to return to our usual communion of kneeling at the rail. Someone asked how many people are wearing a mask at Sunday service – maybe a handful of people. We would still offer the individual communion cups. May be important to run this change by the COVID team. Action – Jim will email the COVID team asking if there are any objections to returning to regular communion. Will ask for a

response in the next few days so we can potentially start this coming Sunday. Another thing, we discussed going back to communion plate passing. It seems convenient to have it sitting at the front door but it was suggested that we continue to have it at the front door but then during the Hymn of the Day, the usher would bring forth the offering plate for blessing.

A motion was made by Marla Amborn seconded by Judee Bramscher that, in consultation with the COVID committee, council recommending return to communion at the alter rail beginning September 18 and bringing the offering plate forward during the hymn of the day. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Affirmation ~~by~~ of approving purchases with perspective committees – Pastor Jim

Council is affirming that process of spending money (special one-time purchases) in a committee should be approved by the whole committee prior to the purchase being made. Council should write up something up and provide to committees. Voucher needs to be written out and signed by committee chair and one other committee member. Purchases for special things need to be approved by the entire committee. ACTION – Patsy will look in the Treasurer's procedures to see if there is information on this.

Staff Performance Issues – Pastor Jim (for Mira Stearns)

Received an email from member regarding concerns about a staff performance issue. Pastor Jim will meet with the staff involved to discuss.

Old Business

Dinner Church Update – Patsy Olson (for Mira Stearns)

Started 3 weeks ago. Have been doing it at Redeemer. Going really well. Two places to look at for offsite location. Hope to have "hard launch" in 4 weeks.

Auction Update – Betsy Clark

Date October 8. Musicians in place, kitchen leaders in place along with soup selections, Darin in place for computer and check-out assistance, auctioneer in place. Kathy Anderson and Betsy will be cleaning out store room on Wednesday to make room for tables for auction items. We need to start making announcements about the auction. Betsy will be setting up table hopefully by next Sunday with sign-up sheets etc.

Rally Sunday update – Betsy Clark

Went well. We had service project with around 20 people participating. Made 150 lunches (300 sandwiches). Great music during the service. We should continue to have an outdoor service on this day.

Nominating committee update – Betsy Clark

The committee has gotten 7 new members. 3 one year positions: Denise Ashley, Cheryl Skrypez, Phyllis Ballata. 1 two year position: Bethany Zenner. 3 three year positions: Scott Zieman, Ted Field, Kathy Stickler. Action: Nominating committee will ask the people to submit a photo and bio for the annual meeting.

(ADD) Visioning retreat for congregation – Marla Amborn for Mira

Need new congregational 5 year plan. See if Justin Grimm to assist. This would be for congregation at large. Mira has ~~not~~ contacted Justin Grimm **but has not heard from him yet. Jim will also attempt to contact Justin.** Probably will end up being next year.

Meeting Highlights – All

1. Property update - peace poles, benches, shrub planting, need to committee doing, painting project
2. Auction
3. Consider going back to communion rail
4. Budget update, use some of Ted's commentary.

~~Meeting highlights~~ – All

- ~~• 5-year visioning process~~
- ~~• Furnaces are being installed~~
- ~~• Peace poles are being installed~~
- ~~• Endowment fund has reached initial goal and is in the process of being opened~~
- ~~• VBS report~~

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Clark