

St Stephen Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2022

Mira Stearns called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Pastor Jim Woodruff, Mira Stearns, Patsy Olson, Ken Smith, Betsy Clark, and Marla Amborn.

Absent: John Rohr, Judee Bramscher

Devotions: Tie-in to Sunday sermon of being thankful. Psalm 103:1-5.

Prayer Concerns: Marla Amborn's mom Bonnie, also her friend Momoh. Patsy's dad Jim. Mira asks for prayers for Einan family. Dave Bosin. Marla asks for prayers for Barson.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes with some minor changes as noted in red. Minutes for the September Council meeting were voted on.

A motion was made by Betsy Clark seconded by Marla Amborn to approve the September Council minutes as amended. Voted on and carried unanimously.

Adjustments to the Agenda: No adjustments

Treasurer's Report – Patsy Olson

Balance sheet Total cash assets: Checking \$77,091.77. Savings \$32,790.47. CDs totaling \$48,291.46. Grand total \$158,173.70.

Patsy noted that she has received an updated valuation of the church property from the insurance company. Any changes will be reflected in next month's report.

Benevolence Fund Net income balance of \$1,507.80. She has written checks to ELCA for \$1,000 and Tecate for \$100. Net income positive amount is reflective of the fact she hasn't written a check yet to Lukani.

Capital Fund Net income \$78,727.28. Drop in account reflects the payment in full to Yale Mechanical for the furnace installation. Also, insurance company declined payment for the sewer backup. Despite these payments, we are only about \$10,000 below where we were at the same time last year.

Cash Reserve Fund \$37,395.79. Slow creep upward each month.

Current Fund Total income is \$232,162.24. Total expense \$282,775.93. Deficit of (negative) \$-50,613.69. Deficit a little smaller than where we were last year (\$-52,066.44).

Special Designated Funds Special Designated Accts \$22,183.70. General Funding Accts \$40,672.88. This includes the Endowment fund which is at \$25,580. Still waiting for the check to be acknowledged. Tanzania Accts \$12,195.62. Tecate Accts \$2,900. Special Designated Memorial Accts \$14,832.33. Total Income \$92,784.53.

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

Pastor's Report – Pastor Jim Woodruff

Regular stuff getting going. Music Festival went well. Would have been nice to see a few more people there. Betsy did great job coordinating. Dedication of peace pole and benches planned for October 23 following service. Will reach out to Peck family members to alert them to the dedication date.

Pastor's Report – Juli Thompson

Juli's report was presented to Council. Couple of weeks doing more than normal with services because Pastor Jim was out for a couple of weeks. Marla volunteered her service if needing help with pastoral work.

Ministry Team reports

Property – Ken Smith

Painting of youth building got delayed because of COVID issues. Ken said they may try to get the windows painted. Tom Scott will be painting the metal on the front entrance (poles, etc). Tree needs to come down in north lawn. One bid gotten from tree service from Tami, need to get another bid.

Tanzania – Ken Smith

Sent money for the roof for Makwema secondary school boys dorm. They are making great progress on the boys dorm. Walls are going up.

A motion was made by Marla Amborn and seconded by Ken Smith to approve the Pastors' and Ministry Team Reports. Voted on and carried unanimously.

New Business

Custodial replacement discussion – All Council Members

Greg McGuiggen resigned. Two options discussed:

- 1) Hiring someone ½ time basis
- 2) Hiring a cleaning service to come in twice a week (4 hours at a time)

We lose out on the “handyman” aspect of the custodian. Ken suggests that we find a handyman to work on odd jobs at the church. Ken Smith has someone that they use. Name given to Jim.

Benefit of having a service is the hourly rate we would be offering is quite low and equivalent of a part-time custodian. Jim will be meeting with Kate Spenser of Staff Relations to discuss and then will be presented at the Staff Relations Committee. We will continue to research a cleaning service. Should we purchase a commercial grade floor cleaner?

We will start with the cleaning service while we address custodial issue.

Visionary Retreat Plan – Mira Stearns/Marla Amborn

Marla did speak with Justin Grim. He's available on Saturday, February 18. Meet in early January to work on details, goals, how many people may be involved in retreat. Need to think about promoting

this to the congregation, invitations to individuals if needed. Who is going to initially meet with Justin? New council members should participate in the retreat.

Nominating committee needs to let the new council members know of this retreat and that they should plan on participating. **ACTION: Betsy and committee will send out information to the new council members.**

Last time we did a planning meeting was several years ago. We never follow through with figuring out what worked and what didn't work and to make new plan.

Communication could simply be "hold the date", reach out to committee leads, general notice to congregation.

Justin – what is happening internally in the congregation, what is happening in the community and how do we live out God's ministry. Start with scripture, may be some research that may need to be done. May be demographic information that is needed. Might be better to meet with Justin in November to start the ball rolling. Jim, Mira, Ken, Marla will try to meet initially in November with Justin. Possible week of November 14-21. Looking at November 15, November 16 as backup. Marla will contact Justin.

We don't want to lose sight of the goals of people within the congregation. Don't look just outside of the congregation.

Mira will be meeting with the people of the Many Faces of White Bear Lake to find out how we can benefit from outreach.

Old Business

Auction update – Betsy Clark

\$4,500 approximate gross. All going into the current fund. Patsy will have better idea in a few weeks as to expenses and get a net amount.

Communion change – Pastor Jim

Everyone Jim has talked to except one person is comfortable with returning to communion rail. Possible date to return will be Reformation Sunday, last Sunday in October.

Affirmation of approving purchases with perspective committees – Pastor Jim

Jim has not reached out to the few committee members who need to be talked to about this. Regarding needing to run purchases through committee for approval before just making purchases. Jim hasn't talked to those people in question yet. Will do that.

Nominating committee update – Betsy Clark

Need to get bio and info from new council members. Also alert them to the Justin Grimm visioning date February 18. Toolkit date February 25 probably. They should plan, if possible, of attending these events. Annual meeting January 29. **Action: Nominating committee will alert new members of these dates when they contact them for bio information for annual meeting.**

Review meeting highlights:

1. Visionary retreat date February 18
2. Toolkit date confirmation date reminder (Marla will get date and text to Mira)
3. Annual meeting date reminder
4. Auction estimate (Betsy will text gross number to Mira)
5. Greg McGuiggan, custodian, resigned.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Clark