

**ST LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
04/26/2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joy Dressel, Donovan Larson Marty Schmidt, Carol Stelmach, Ken Hamilton, Kathy Herron, Dave Johnston, Jack Laudenslager, Juanita Wagner and Paul Simons

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Wagener, Marsh Fey Violet Brooks, and Jenny Bell

STAFF PRESENT: Rev Vicki Hampton and Rev. Carole Barner

The April 26, 2022 Council Meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by President Joy Dressel.

OPENING PRAYER: Kathy Herron opened the meeting with prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA:

March Church Council Minutes

Membership and Evangelism Minutes, March 2022

Finance Committee Special Meeting Minutes, March 2022

AV Committee Minutes, April 2022

Juanita Wagner noted that Julie Burr's last name was misspelled in the March Minutes.

Marty Schmidt moved to adopt Consent Agenda and Dave Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried.

STAFF REPORT: (Pastor Carole's and Pastor Vicki's reports were sent to the Council before the meeting).

Pastor Vicki

- ACS Stands for Automated Church Systems. (St. Lucas uses as its accounting system and membership data base).
- Vacation Bible School still being developed. It will likely be opened for more activities for parents and grandparents.
- Audio-visual position has been filled.
- Pastor Vicki celebrated at-home communion with 25 people in 14 different settings.
- Issued the charge for Julie Kies at her installation ceremony.
- Will Participate in boundary awareness on Thursday.
- Put in for 2 weeks of vacation from May 23-June 7.
- Celebrating pre-school in worship this Sunday.

Pastor Carole

- Confirmation Banquet on May 19th and Rite of Confirmation on May 22nd at 10:30am.
- Youth Ministry served at SLU Campus Kitchen. Nine young people participated.

- Parents' Night Out fundraiser on May 13th from 5:30 – 8:00 pm for parents with children 3 years of age and older and potty trained. Looking for free-will donations.
- Donovan Larson asked if there was feedback on the Lenten messages about the UCC. Pastor Carole mentioned all feedback was positive.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Cemetery Report: Donovan Larson mentioned in light of new contracting procedures that the Cemetery Board has used Jim Weatherford who is an employee of the City of Crestwood and has done the layout work for Cemetery Board. Also, the Building and Grounds are responsible for the grounds except for the cemetery and ball fields. Ball fields look great because of volunteers. Need to determine who is responsible for more significant repairs. The issue of Jim Weatherford and insurance needs to be considered by the board at a later date. A Motion was made by Marty Schmidt seconded by Carol Stelmach to approve cemetery board report. The motion passed.
- Ball Fields: Kathy Herron mentioned the ball fields over the weekend were full and complimented Violet Brooks on her work.
- Transition Team. Pastor Vicki reported that over 100 responses to surveys and meeting tomorrow evening to discuss the reports and next steps. Results will be used for the church profile and various other purposes.
- Personnel Matters. Andrew Richardson has been hired to assist with AV. Still looking for a church administrator (part-time). Personnel Committee has been looking into health insurance for our staff. Current policy is going up 45%.
- Keeping Religious Communities Safe – No report at this time.
- Ushers. Joy Dressel reported that we have usher teams that existed before Covid. We have teams for 9:00 a.m. We are in transition time and it's unclear what we are doing with ushers. Marty Schmidt asked if we need a sign-in table? The table originated as a response to Covid so folks don't have to pass the sign-in isle pew pads. Pastor Vicki prefers the pew sign-in books so she can better locate people. After a brief discussion, it was determined that we will plan to eliminate the welcome table sign-up and bring back the attendance pew pads ushers.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Church Bank Accounts: Carol Stelmach made a motion that the Church move its banking from BMO Harris to Enterprise Bank & Trust as soon as possible before we change over to Paychex. Marty Schmidt seconded the Motion. Donovan noted that our fees will be less than we are paying now, and we will have better service. Carol and Donovan ran it by Cemetery and preschool, and everyone is ready to make this move. Pastor Vicki noted that the Finance Committee did solicit other bids from PNC Bank and Regions Bank. The Motion unanimously passed.

- Building and Grounds Policies: A new policy was drafted and went through many revisions. We now have a final draft that we will also run past Building and Grounds Committee for its review. Then we will bring it back to council at the next meeting. This complies with the 90-day period we committed to in our letter to Building and Grounds. That letter has been delivered to Karl Grattendick.
- Property Boundary Lines. Joy Dressel reported that a tree fell over at the rear of the ball fields. The property line could not be determined as there are no steel spikes marking the line. The question arose as to whether the tree was on church property. The tree was taken care of but the question now is should we have a survey done and the property line marked for future reference. Carl Heine checked with a survey company that quoted a price of \$1,200 to survey the North and East sides of the field. Dave Johnston mentioned that this issue has come up before. He believes the property should be surveyed and pinned on all three sides to protect the church. Donovan Larson mentioned the residential properties ought to have spikes on their properties that might be a reference for us. Maybe we can save money by finding those pins but if we can't it makes sense to have the survey done. Donovan offered to call Carl to discuss. The matter was tabled until next meeting.
- Semi-Annual Meeting: Joy Dressel noted that the meeting will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. Reports need to be turned in and we will need a parliamentarian. Secretary might need a helper to determine who is making motions and seconding motions. AV folks are preparing to allow some people to participate virtually. There are three openings on preschool board and one opening on the council.
- Summer Worship Services: Joy Dressel brought up the issue of a summer worship schedule. Carol Stelmach mentioned that she thinks outside worship services are worth considering. Jack Laudenslager stated he believes that three services may not make sense anymore given our current attendance numbers and that introducing fewer services this summer might be beneficial. Pastor Vicki noted the Wednesday services worked well with a couple of choir members and Pastor Carol or herself leading the hymns. She also noted that our budget has a large deficit and the only way to make a significant dent in that is to move to one pastor. Donovan Larson thought it might make more sense to eliminate one of the Sunday services and not the Saturday night service. Paul Simons mentioned that we are averaging about 15 people on Saturday night. Their numbers are small but mighty. Joy Dressel and Pastor Carole concurred. Pastor Carole brought up the issue of technology in that we only live-stream one service so that would not change. Joy Dressel mentioned outside services won't be able to be live streamed because our equipment is in the church building. Also, there have been suggestions to have musical guests. Marty Schmidt mentioned the choir he sings in might be able to sing at our church in late August. Pastor Carole and Marty Schmidt both said they were hearing from the discussion that there should be one service on Sunday, and it should be live-streamed. Carol Stelmach recommended we engage with those members who attend the Saturday night service and see what their ideas might be. Joy Dressel suggested we invite them to meet after a Saturday service and provide sandwiches. Juanita Wagner wondered if 10:00 am would be a reasonable time for the one Sunday service. Marty Schmidt made a motion that we move to one service over the summer beginning at 9:30 a.m. Dave Johnston seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

The remainder of the Council Agenda was tabled until the May Council Meeting.

Dave Johnston moved to adjourn the meeting. Marty Schmidt seconded the Motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Wagener
Secretary