

**SAINT LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joy Dressel, Kathy Herron, Donovan Larson, Jenny Bell, Marsha Fey, Ken Hamilton, Dave Johnston, Jack Laudenslager, Paul Simons, Juanita Wagner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marty Schmidt, Carol Stelmach, Violet Brooks

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Vicki Hampton and Rev. Carole Barner

The October Church Council Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Joy Dressel.

OPENING PRAYER

The meeting opened with prayer led by Kathy Herron

CONSENT AGENDA

Church Council Minutes September 27, 2022

Church Council Executive Session Minutes September 27, 2022

The Consent Agenda was adopted unanimously by a show of hands.

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

Pastor Vicki

In addition to her report, Vicki reported on the meeting that Joy and Vicki had with Michele. She said that the news of Michele receiving a potential pay cut was met with mixed reactions. Michele asked for a few days to think about it. We will see what happens.

Vicki said that Seth continues to improve at the organ.

Several members had attended an offering of two sessions by Carey Nieuwhof on the Six Most Impactful Days of the Year and How to Accelerate Church Growth. There will be some notes on that forthcoming. One of the suggestions was to take Christmasinyourcity.org. Katy Forand was able to get ChristmasinSTL.org and ChristmasinSouthCounty.org.

Pastor Carole

Carole said that anyone who registered for the Carey Nieuwhof course would be able to access the recording. She said that it was a beautiful day for Trunk or Treat on Sunday. Confirmands and The Youth Group were there to organize the games. Amy took a survey and asked how the participants found out about the event, and they said Facebook.

After the celebration of John Gross, Katy Forand suggested concessions at the ball fields. (more on that later in the meeting)

Carole said that we need to reclaim Halloween as All Hollow's Eve and the next day as All Saints Day. So, there will be a Blessing of Costumes at the Service on Sunday.

Vicki reminded us that Sunday is also Reformation Sunday.

OLD BUSINESS

Finance Report

Donovan said that there is nothing new except the papers showing the results of our last meeting. There may be questions tonight from the Council and also from persons at the Congregational Conversation meeting on October 30th.

Donovan received an email from Jim Kaiser that said that the Cemetery Committee had problems getting timely and accurate reports. The problem was worse than Donovan had been aware.

Donovan said that in a conversation last Sunday he learned concerns that people have about cutting Missions: Our budget spends over a million dollars a year, and only a small amount goes to missions.

Juanita said that at one time 50% of the budget went to missions. That figure seemed high to some on the committee.

Quilter Funds

The vote to have the funds from the quilter funds transferred to the Freezer Meals Fund was made in October, 2021. Now, the bookkeepers need to make that transaction.

Keeping Religious Communities Safe

Jenny asked what kind of program is expected from the Council: active shooter training? Full fledged program? Training on Sunday morning? Information sent to congregants what to do in emergencies? She said that the information she received had information regarding how the ushers would move congregants away from the event not only for an active shooter, but also for fire, etc. She asked what has happened in the past?

Paul said that previously they had surprise fire drills that were coordinated with our local Fire Department and then they would come by and see how it was being performed. Also, there was semi-annual usher training. Active shooter training was not done then but should be now. In 2011 there was a tornado and all went down to the undercroft and the service was continued there.

Active shooter training for the Congregation and a special training for the ushers would be helpful. The Sunset Hill Police Department could give a presentation on active shooter training.

- Have an announcement on a Sunday that an active shooter drill will happen at some point, and then a few weeks or a month later, have the drill.
- Possibly have the drill on a Sunday morning.

Annual Meeting

- Joy said that the budget has been approved, and has been submitted for the annual report.
- The Bylaws change is simply changing the number from 15 to 12 for the number of people on the Council.

The Employee Retention Tax Credit

Vicki said that we are almost done with the paperwork for our part of the process. What still has to be done is to decide whether to submit amended 941s for 2020 or see if Provisium's explanation to go along with the credit will work.

NEW BUSINESS

Schedule of Youth Events

Joy had emailed the list of youth events and asked if anyone saw any problems with the dates. Joy will let Amy know that the dates are ok, and ask that Debbie put those on the Church calendar.

Speaker Series

The Social Justice Committee is talking with Dr Joseph Forand about giving a presentation about Opioid Addiction which will be given at the end of January. Plans are to invite schools in our area.

Carole said that Dr. Forand is very excited about giving the presentation to tell what opioid addiction does to the brain, and why it matters that we pay attention. Dr Forand has a video on Youtube: "The Anatomy of a Drug Overdose."

Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens will be on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Sue Simmons had organized it last year, but she will be out of town this year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Eric Fey presentation was recorded, and Donovan will get in touch with Dan Herron about making it available.

Jack moved and Donovan seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Herron
Council Secretary