

**SAINT LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUCIL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 22, 2022**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carol Stelmach, Violet Brooks

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

The November Church Council Meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by President Joy Dressel.

**OPENING PRAYER**

The meeting opened with prayer led by Jack Laudenslager

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Special Council Meeting October 16, 2022 Minutes

Special Council Meeting October 19, 2022 Minutes

Council Meeting October 25, 2022 Minutes

Cemetery Board October 2022 Minutes

Membership and Evangelism September 2022 Minutes

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Joy asked if there were any items that needed to be pulled out for discussion.

Paul said that he had corrections and/or questions to October 16 Minutes and the Executive Session on October 19.

Carole said that she had corrections on the Council meeting October 25 and the Executive Session for that same day.

Remove the Council Minutes from the Consent Agenda.

And if there were no reason to remove the minutes for the Cemetery Board October 2022 Minutes or the Membership and Evangelism Committee Minutes for September and October we could go ahead and approve those.

Marty moved and Dave seconded that those items be approved. The motion passed by a show of hands.

The Council Minutes for October 16, October 19 and October 25 suggested changes were discussed, and changes were made.

Dave moved and Marty seconded that the Council Minutes be approved. Motion was passed by a show of hands.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Pastor Vicki**

Pastor Vicki said that there was no update to her report, except the correction of the dates of her vacation that was posted incorrectly on the agenda. Her vacation is from December 26 through January 1.

Juanita asked about the 403b plan for Gurgette and Dennis. Vicki said that was the plan that the church is obligated to put a certain percentage into an employee's 403b retirement plan for those working 20 hour or more a week. Gurgette, Dennis and Megan were excluded so a makeup had to be done. Megan's was made up for her and paid. Vicki figured out what was owed Gurgette and Dennis and submitted it to the personnel committee and that was paid as well.

Vicki applauded Seth for continuing to learn the organ, and when there is no one available to play music for the Saturday service, he records the music for that night.

Jeff is also amazing. The financial reports will be ready by the end of the day tomorrow.

Joy gave praise to Dan Herron for coming in an extra time to record Seth. And Vicki said that Dan has run down why the microphones were dropping out on the weekend. One of the television networks changed their frequency and that change interferes with our signal on an intermittent basis. He is changing the microphones to a different frequency.

The Sunday services in December are at 9:30 am, and the Christmas and New Years' Service will be at 10:00 am. Christmas Eve services are 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. On December 15 there will be a quiet service at 3:00 pm and at 7:00 pm.

Vicki pointed to the notes in the Council packet of the additional meeting that Jeff and Vicki had with Scott Hackenberg, UCC Cornerstone Funds regarding exploration of alternative income funds.

#### Pastor Carole B

Pastor Carole B said that the name of the Service on Thursday, December 15, will be The Quiet Christmas Service, which will be held at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

See Executive Session for another topic.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Financial Report

The minutes for the October finance committee are not available yet. Donovan said that he passed on the 2023 detailed budget to several people—Joy, Don Lang and others.

Joy said that there was a question in the voting of the budget if the amendment was applied to the St. Louis Association as part of the conference or not. Marty said that he made the motion, and that is correct. Donovan said that he modified the budget to reflect that the cut to the St. Louis Association would be by 50%.

#### Keeping Religious Communities Safe

No report.

#### Update of Electronic Meeting Guidelines

Guidelines for Electronic Meetings, 11/20/22 had been distributed to the committee, which had been revised by Joy, Donovan and Jack. She pointed to number three which regards the necessity of the participants identifying themselves to the Congregation. Vicki clarified number two saying that for the Congregational Meeting when people respond that they want to attend the meeting, we send an invitation with a password or link.

Paul said that a previous version had a number eight which said that the chair or the president will always be on screen as well as any recognized speaker. That would not be possible when the screen is shared. And it is not always possible for the speakers to be seen.

Paul agreed to eliminate number eight, if number three (identification of speaker) was followed.

Paul moved and Ken seconded that the Update of Electronic Meeting Guidelines be accepted. The motion was accepted by a show of hands.

#### Annual Meeting Recap

Carol said that the annual meeting was long but was respectful and offered Kudos to the council members. Juanita asked for clarity about Paul Litzsinger's comments about the missions. He talked about creating a separate endowment. Vicki talked with Paul after the meeting, and he had not intended the meaning of an endowment. Donovan said that what Paul wanted was to find a way so that the missions would not be cut.

#### Orientation of New Council Members

Joy asked if anyone wanted to give an orientation to new members. She said that she had some information from when she became a council member that could be updated and used. Marty and Joy will give the orientation

#### Stewardship/Fundraising/multi-year plan

Joy said that Stewardship and Fundraising has traditionally been part of the Finance Committee, an off shoot or subcommittee and that could happen this year but thought that the Council could discuss our reactions to some of the suggestions that have been made.

### **Ballfields**

We have talked about two mutually exclusive things that could happen with the ballfields.

- Use it for more athletic activities. Have Lindbergh use the property more, maybe improve it. Selling concessions gives an opportunity for the community to know more about us.
- Development of ballfield land for other purposes

Juanita asked what was the most important thing we need to do now? Is it providing a community service of renting the ballfields? Or are we in such a dire position that we need to sell the fields?

Donovan said that maybe we need to gather a task force to look at the options There may be 10 to 12 developers who may want to buy the property. He also said that there is a history of having conversations about selling that property. Pastor Dr Campbell looked at building a retirement home.

Dave said we need to be cautious and move slowly.

Suggestions for the task force included:

Katy Forand, Marshall Lukens who worked with Joy on another property, Jeff Wagener and real estate attorney who helped Mt Tabor sell their property (The fee was a one-time \$700 fee.), when Carole B. was pastor there.

There are other institutions who rent our ball fields. Lindbergh is recommending that we (the Church) let them (Lindbergh) manage the ball fields. In that case, the other institutions would schedule through Lindbergh, and they would split the fee with the church. They are also interested in improving the ball fields, like running a water line and making a dugout area.

Kathy suggested that Violet represent the ball fields option.

### **Hall rental and Alcohol policy**

Hall rental activities like a trivia night usually have alcohol involved. There probably is an existing policy stating that alcohol is not served at the Church except for the Communion wine. We had looked at the option about 15 years ago and getting a license. We decided not to do that.

Previously Marty said that the person holding the trivia night could get the license. Would the Congregation agree to offering an opportunity like that to the community? Discussion included:

- This was investigated in 2016 and it was learned that we would need a license. The insurance company cautioned against having an alcohol license and gave the Council a six-page document about the process. This is another cost and risks are involved. The Council president would be the first in line for any alcohol-related issues.
- Renting the hall without allowing liquor is usually not a profitable effort. Some institutions allow the participants to bring their own liquor to their event.
- A long time ago when an exercise class was proposed, Pastor Mark Roberts said that there is no greater liability in our building than our parishioners coming with their walkers and wheelchairs. And that is how the exercise class started.
- Laws change. The 2016 liquor license laws may not be the same today. How do other churches do it? We need to know what we want to take on and investigate.
- It had been pointed out previously that a custodian would need to be at an event all evening. However, custodians could be hired which would be another rental expense for the renter.

- It is nice to have a place where you can always bring someone who cannot drink alcohol.

Marty and Donovan will investigate the possibilities.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Trespass of home adjacent to church property**

There is an issue with the home next to the church property—the home at the back corner. They seem to claim Saint Lucas property as their own. Donovan shared a picture of where the property was located, off the northeast corner of the big parking lot. The property at 11734 Arboroak Lane is picking up a triangular wedge of our corner and is using it for their back yard.

Previously, the previous owner was contacted, and an agreement was made that he would continue to use the property recognizing that it belonged to the church. That property owner sold the house and the new property owner in theory knows about that same agreement but has not been contacted officially. Donovan suggested that the Council write a letter asking them to acknowledge that their fence is trespassing the Church's property and that they make no claim to that property even though they are fencing it. Donovan said that he received this updated information from Karl Grattendeck who said that Council should write the letter updating the agreement.

Dave moved that we authorize the Council to pursue updating the agreement with the current owner. Ken seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Donovan will ask Karl G to give Joy a copy of the previous letter. Vicki asked that Jeff Wagner be involved.

## **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

### **December Council Meeting**

The date of the December council meeting will be December 27. We will invite the new council members and meet in person in the Fireside Room and bring appetizers to the meeting for a social time an hour earlier at 5:00 pm The meeting will be hybrid.

### **Dart ball and the social hall**

Ken asked why we can't use the social hall for Dart ball, that people from other churches do not want to go in a shed. Jack said that the dart ball group is reluctant to use the social hall for dart ball because of the number of darts that could go to the floor. He thought the cemetery shed was fine. This problem is new to the dart ball group.

### **Constitution and By-Laws**

Paul asked that Debbie reformat the copy of the Constitution and by-laws to eliminate two blank pages.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Dave and seconded by Jack that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was approved by a show of hands.

The meeting was closed with the praying of the Lord's Prayer at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Herron  
Church Council Secretary

