

**SAINT LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joy Dressel, Kathy Herron, Donovan Larson, Marty Schmidt, Carole Stelmach, Violet Brooks, Marsha Fey, Ken Hamilton, Jack Laudenslager, Juanita Wagner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jenny Bell, Dave Johnston, Paul Simons

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

The September 27, 2022 Church Council Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by President Joy Dressel.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Joy opened the meeting with prayer.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Church Council August 2022 Minutes

Special Church Council Minutes September 6, 2022

Preschool February 2022 Minutes

Preschool March 2022 Minutes

Preschool April 2022 Minutes

Preschool May 2022 Minutes

Preschool June 2022 Minutes

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**

Pastor Vicki asked if there were any questions about her report. Since there were none, she shared some staff highlights. Michelle is putting together the Pet Blessing and the Children's Advent Program. Seth is fully engaged in fall and Christmas programing. Next week, he will be on vacation. Linda Radick will play the piano and Mandy will sing a solo. Amy just finished the Confirmation Retreat and is working on the Trunk or Treat. Jeff has been working on the Employee Retention Credit which is a makeup for the Payroll Protection Plan, and may give us some funding. He is looking for revenue generators for St. Lucas and is having a meeting with the Lindbergh School District folks Thursday about their use of our ball fields. Debbie has been busy with the cemetery, making sure that payroll is brought over adequately and accurately, and getting a lot of phone calls. Denee has been working with her general work and working on initiatives with the Membership and Evangelism Committee.

In answer to Juanita's question about whether the Search Committee and Transition Team had met together. Vicki said that the Search Committee will not meet until after they are commissioned on October 9. Their first meeting will be with the Transition Team who will be handing over the information gathered from their work.

There will be an orientation meeting with Damien Lake which will include the Executive Committee, Pastors and Search Committee to hear about the process.

**Pastor Carole**

Carole said that there was a large amount of information listed in her report and asked if there were any questions. She said that there are eight confirmands this year who really seem to gel and are learning together. The retreat at Camp Moval was overnight on Friday and Saturday. They did a lot of team building and learning. Thanks to Bill, Will and Liam Brinkhorst for helping with the high ropes course which the confirmands did on Saturday.

Carole spent last week Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday virtually attending the UCC Summit. The theme was “What it Means to Emerge as Church.” She said that she would be sharing what she learned from the presenters in the weeks and months to come. Important point: There was one white male in leadership for the entire conference. All kinds of voices were heard. Interesting power reversal.

Carole will be talking to the Adult Ed group about having another Bible study. Prior studies have been on Thursday evening, but now Confirmation meetings are on Thursday night.

Donovan asked if anyone attended the two-day educational offering on Job. The tuition for that learning was \$100.00. He asked if that was the usual cost for seminars given by Eden? Carole said that if the Seminar is given by the Life Program, then that would be the usual cost. LIFE Program Seminars are given four times a year and are given by professors at Eden. Donovan asked if that was a fund-raising effort because it was a Zoom meeting. Joy said that Paul Litzinger worked out a deal with Eden when a large group from St. Lucas attended one of the Eden programs presented by Damayanthi Niles.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Finance Report**

Donovan gave an overview of the budget. He said that he had created two reports:

The first one has been in the email blast for a few weeks. That report compared the projected monthly amounts of the weekly offerings and the actual amounts collected through August. The report was given as a chart for ease in understanding. That same information was given for 2020 and 2021. Revenue and Expenses were also given for 2022.

The second report Donovan created was a comparison of the budget from this year through June 2022, and a proposed budget gathered from the information that committee chairs had given him as their need for 2023. He doubled the 2022 revenue and expenses for six months, which showed a 2023 shortfall.

He also created a narrative which included the information that was stated above so that members of the Congregation would be informed before the Annual Congregation Meeting. That narrative (letter) will be approved by the council and sent to the Congregation.

Discussion followed.

### **Money in the Quilters Fund**

Joy asked if there was a motion to move the money that was in the Quilters Fund to the Kitchen Fund.

The amount of the money is \$4,448.00. Since the last discussion of this item, the freezer meals have started again. Joy had spoken to people from the Community meal and others who work in the kitchen, and they suggested to put the money in a Kitchen Fund, as a generic fund for kitchen expenses.

Kathy offered the idea of splitting the money between the Loaves and Fishes program and the Kitchen Fund, if the backpack program needs the money, as reported at the last meeting.

Discussion followed. It was decided to table the motion until next month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Memorial Fund Request**

Michelle requested from the Memorial Committee \$150-160 for six 10-inch crosses to use as baptismal gifts. The memorial committee has approved that request but needs the Council to approve it too.

Carol moved and Jack seconded to approve the memorial committee's request for Michelle to have \$150-160 for baptismal crosses. Discussion included:

Vicki said that she and Carole were not asked if the crosses were an appropriate gift for baptism.

Violet said that \$25.00 was quite a bit of money to spend for a recurring expense.

Motion was tabled.

#### Signature Authority

Jeff Wagner, Church Administrator had prepared a resolution, and Joy had distributed it to the members. The resolution needs a dollar amount and could be granted on a case-to-case basis. Some of the organizations have a DocuSign and can get the president's signature digitally, but others are smaller and do not have that capability.

After discussion, Donovan moved and Marty seconded that the Council Resolution submitted by Jeff Wagner be approved as is with the additional information: "amount \$3,000 or less for contracts that are for 12 months or less".

Motion was approved by a show of hands.

#### Employee Retention Credit

We can possibly get some money back from payroll taxes. It is a very complicated process so there are outside accounting firms that do this work. There is a possibility of getting up to \$7,000 for each employee. The outside accounting firm would take a 15% fee from what we get. If we don't get any money, then we do not pay them any money.

Joy read the resolution prepared by Jeff for the Council to approve and authorize:

We the church council of St. Lucas United Church of Christ, do hereby resolve that this council has the authority to authorize and obligate St. Louis United Church of Christ in all matters and manners of banking and indebtedness. During a meeting of our council on September 27, 2022 we approved and authorized Don Corder, President of the Provisium Group, to negotiate and obligate on our behalf for Employee Retention Credits from the Internal Revenue Service and all other functions and actions pertaining therof.

Marty moved and Jack seconded that the resolution be approved. Motion was approved by a show of hands

#### Lawn Mowing Service Contract

Jeff has observed and others have complained that the lawn mowing service is not doing a good job. The contract initially was for one year but was automatically renewed and is valid until fall of 2023. Jeff, being a lawyer says he is confident that he could get us out of the contract because of breach of contract and he asked that he do the negotiations.

Discussion

- Donovan said
  - o at one point the cemetery and the Church had the same lawn mowing company.
  - o The lawn mowing service has not graded the ball fields and they have not mulched the flower beds for the Church-owned properties
- Violet said that she has had complaints about the ball fields not being dragged and the grass not being cut. She said that the new company needs to know the expectations for the ball fields. Specific instructions need to be given in the contract.

Carol moved and Jack seconded that Jeff have the authority to terminate the lawn mowing service contract. Motion was approved by a show of hands.

#### Annual Meeting

-2023 Budget

We will need to have a couple of special meetings and some council conversations with the Congregation.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

## **ACTION ITEM FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: 2023 BUDGET**

Joy will post in the Email Blast that there will be a Congregational Conversation after the 9:30 Service on Sunday, October 2 at 10:45 in the Sanctuary, and the letter explaining the financial status of the church will be included in that post.

### **-Bylaws Change Regarding Size of Church Council**

Joy said that for years there have been conversations about reducing the size of the Church Council. The amount on Council was 12 until the early 1960s when the Church was growing and there were only men on the Council. So, the pastor suggested adding three more people, and those people were women. Now our church is much smaller and is not rapidly growing. So, we could decrease the number of council members which would give more to work on other positions in the Church. The question is whether to decrease to 12 or to decrease to 9. Marty would like to change the number to nine. A by-laws change can only happen at the November Annual Meeting or the May Semi-Annual Meeting. Marty was suggesting that we decrease to nine over a couple of years and only nominate three people for Council this year. If the bylaws change doesn't pass at the meeting, he suggested that there be nominations from the floor for the other three members of the Council.

We could postpone the bylaw change until May and have it in place for the next Annual Meeting.

### **Discussion:**

Kathy said that there has been a problem getting people to do the collections, especially at the Saturday service, with 13 members. Also, the only positions that you cannot hold if you are on the Council are elected positions, and there are no guarantees that people not on Council would take on other positions. She said she liked the number 12 because we don't know what might happen in a year, and too small a number would not be helpful. Also, 12 allowed a greater chance for diversity on the Council,

Juanita said that there are several people on Council being the liaison for more than one committee now. She asked how the liaison responsibility would be distributed with just nine members. And today there are 10 people present so there are three people absent and that is the usual.

Carol said she liked the idea of nine and did not think we needed liaisons to committees if we had minutes from the committees. She would like to have Marty's idea move forward.

Donovan said that he liked the number 12, and that 12 was a significant number for the Church.

Carole reminded the Council of Marty's proposal: "Three (3) new Council members shall be elected at each ACM for a term of 3 years, reducing the number of Council seats to nine (9) for the year 2025 and following" This would bring the number of seats to 12 in 2023, 10 in 2024 and 9 in 2025 and forward.

Donovan moved that we propose to the Congregation that this year bylaws change from 15 members on the Council to 12 members on the Council, with the possibility of moving to nine members in later years. Juanita seconded the motion. Motion was accepted by a show of hands.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Vicki said that she was planning on serving actual bread for World Communion Sunday this Sunday and asked for volunteers. She will cut the bread into pieces and will use the plastic cups we have been using for the juice. She said she needed members to serve it. Six people would be helpful. Ken suggested

having the little altar in front of the altar and having the Congregation come up for Communion. That idea was dismissed.

Carol, Kathy, Ken and Donovan offered to help serve the bread to the Congregation. Joy will serve the choir.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Kathy moved and Ken seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 8:51.

The meeting was closed with the praying of The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Herron