

**SAINT LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH COUCIL MEETING MINUTES
8/23/2022**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Violet Brooks, Dave Johnston, Marty Schmidt

STAFF PRESENT: Rev Vicki Hampton, Rev. Carole Barner

The August 23, 2022 Church Council Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Joy Dressel.

OPENING PRAYER: Juanita opened the meeting with a devotional from Disciplines (a book from the Upper Room) beginning with the Scripture: Hebrews 12:29-38.

CONSENT AGENDA

Church Council July 2022 Minutes
Preschool July 2022 Minutes
Personnel Committee July 2022 Minutes
Personnel Committee August 2022 Minutes
Membership and Evangelism August 2022 Minutes
AV Committee August 2022 Minutes
Finance Committee August 2022

Jack moved and Carol seconded to adopt the Consent Agenda. Motion was approved by a show of hands.

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

Pastor Vicki

In addition to her report, Pastor Vicki said that Jeff was doing a fantastic job, and he wants to learn more about ACS so Vicki will spend time with him this week.

Vicki said that the Transition Team may be cancelling Thursday's meeting because only one person had registered, Joy believes that there may be a snafu with the sign-up system. Vicki will follow up with Jeff because he posted the invitation.

Pastor Carole

In addition to her report:

- Christian Education – Intergenerational Education: Nov 20 - Native American Storyteller. More information will come
- Today the story about our Youth Group being at the United Church of Christ headquarters and visiting John Dorhauer hit the UCC website.
- Following our gathering with Jordan Braxton on 8/16 called "Understanding LGBTQIA+", Dan Herron sent the link for the recording, and Carole passed it on to the pastors from other churches that were present on Zoom. Carol will forward the link to all Council members. Attendance at the event: 25 in person and 17 on Zoom.
- Speaker Series will include other social justice issues and Keeping Religious Communities Safe
- Youth Mission trip:
 - o Kudos to the youth for the Sunday Service. Conversations have begun among the youth about suggestions for service projects and fun events, and their possible involvement in worship.
 - o Amy and Lynn could have conversations with the youth about their thoughts on worship and music.
 - o Maybe a handful of youth could lead the congregation in some aspect of worship once a month.

- o The contributions of the shareholders was the biggest fundraiser for the youth trip. Kathy said Kudos for the Luncheon and the way it was arranged with one youth at each table.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Endowment Groups

Both endowment groups: general endowment fund with a committee and perpetual endowment trust with trustees, upon the suggestion of the financial advisor, agreed to change broker dealers to save on fees that they were being charged. So, there was a change made in who is overseeing the money, which is just an administrative change. Nothing else has changed.

403B Situation

Vicki discovered that back in 2020 there were forms completed and a decision was made to have a 403B pension plan for any of the staff who worked over 20 hours a week. This was not communicated to those who were handling the paperwork, so funds were not added to the pension plan for people who worked over 20 hours a week but less than 30 hours a week. That is now being corrected, and the money will be added to the pension fund. This will be a substantial amount of money, and will be shown in the financial statements.

Collection of Policies

There was a hard copy policy manual at one point. Then, it was decided to have the policies online. Now, Jeff is finding policies and putting them online.

Communication

- We need to communicate with the congregation any changes that were made in council, and also communicate those changes to those persons who are to implement the changes.
- Minutes of the council meeting are not published for a long period of time. Person taking the minutes sends the minutes to the rest of the committee but does not receive feedback. If feedback is given, they could be published. Committee was asked to respond to the notes within a week after they are sent to them by the secretary. However, there were three months that the minutes were not posted, even after they had been approved by the Council. Communication is key.

Review of Ministry Upcoming

Next week, the Executive Committee will meet with the pastors to review our ministry together. Committee was asked to give concerns or praises to Joy, and they will be discussed at the meeting.

New Preschool Liaison – Juanita Wagner is going to take over that position from Marty.

OLD BUSINESS

Finance Report

- Donovan said that we are not where we want to be with our bookkeeper. He has asked to have a meeting with them within the next week. The references given from other churches who had used the same bookkeeper were fine. So it is surprising that we are having the same problem as before.
- There were some billings by Building and Grounds that were not correctly done, and we are keeping our eye on that.
- Donovan is working on the budget and has received some of the projected budgets from committees but not all. There will be a conversation with the congregation regarding how much of a deficit that we want to build into the budget for the next year.
- Vicki suggested getting Jeff on board with helping Donovan with the budget. Donovan will send to Jeff a skeleton of the budget and the information that Jack said is in the budget files from previous years.
- There had been a motion to move money from the Quilters Account to the Freezer Meals Account. But the freezer meals preparers have not gathered, and there are no plans for them to gather to make the freezer meals.

It was requested that the money from the freezer meals account be transferred to the Loaves and Fishes program. This request was postponed until next month.

One vs Two Sunday Worship Services – Discussion included.

- Number in attendance – Comparison of number in combined services per Sunday before and after June (when we began one service).
- We may have only one pastor next year. Two services on Sunday plus the Saturday night service would be a burden for the pastor.
- Energy in the sanctuary is better with one service rather than two on Sunday morning.
- Reasons for having a later service were given, but if we change to a later service, we could lose members to picnics, games, etc.
- One service is better for our resources—soloist, choir, etc.
- Better optic for those who are joining us online.

Decision: Vicki will let the congregation know about our conversation and that we will continue to have only one service on Sunday at 9:30 am.

Keeping Religious Communities Safe

We will incorporate this into the Speakers Series. Jenny will arrange an emergency preparedness training session including training for an active shooter for an hour in the evening, and then have a short review at weekend services.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting in November

Marty has agreed to chair the nominating committee. We will need to come up with some suggestions of who to nominate for Council.

Search Committee

We have a lengthy list of people who were nominated for the Search Committee.

Financial Report

The updated financial report will be in the eblast this week, in a format that is easy to understand and easy to update. Donovan let the Congregation know about that report at the Sunday service, and the committee was invited to let people know that it will be in the eblast, especially those who have complained about having the same financial report since March.

Homecoming September 11th

Marsha said there was a need for volunteers and enumerated the various jobs, which included bingo caller, corn hole tournament organizer, serve food. Amy and Lynn have given the youth the information about volunteering, and two have already volunteered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer at 8:03.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Herron
Church Council Secretary