

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joy Dressel, Marty Schmidt, Kathy Herron, Donovan Larson, Carol Stelmach, Marsha Fey, Ken Hamilton, Dave Johnston, Jack Laudenslager, Paul Simons, Phil Denton, Katy Forand, Barbara Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jenny Ball, Violet Brooks, Juanita Wagener

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Carole Barner

STAFF ABSENT: Rev. Vicki Hampton

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

OPENING PRAYER

The meeting opened with prayer led by Barbara Smith

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Meeting November 22, 2022 Minutes

Membership and Evangelism Minutes, November 1, 2022

Marty moved and Carol seconded that the Consent Agenda be adopted as submitted. The motion was accepted unanimously by a show of hands.

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

Pastor Vicki

There were no questions or comments about the report that Pastor Vicki had submitted.

Pastor Carole

Carole asked if there were any questions or comments about her report. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Report

The Finance Committee doesn't meet until tomorrow so there was no report. Donovan said that the collections for December were really good, but he doesn't have the exact numbers. He said that the office manager, Jeff Wagener, had sent the reports to him, but the committee has not looked at them yet. He said that he would send a report to the council members after the finance committee meeting tomorrow.

Joy said that her daughter had attended the Christmas Eve 9:00 service and said that more could be said about the offering. Someone there coming a first time would not know that there was an offering plate.

Paul asked about how the receipts from this week were being processed, since Debbie would not be back until 2023. Usually, the books are held open for a week for the offering information.

Keeping Religious Communities Safe

No report

Donovan said that he had spoken with Terry Marcille on Christmas Eve, and Terry said that he was waiting for the Council to give him information regarding if he was to contact the police department. He has the material from a few years ago which includes information regarding instructions for when there is a tornado or fire. Information regarding

an active shooter will be new to the Church. Information that was presented to members who attended a seminar on Zoom given by Interfaith Partnerships is still available on-line, and the gist of it is that there needs to be a plan and the plan needs to be coordinated with the local police.

Hall Rental and Alcohol Policy

Joy asked if Donovan and Marty had discussions with those suggested at our last meeting.

- Marty said his only discussion was with Amy, who said that the Youth Group wants to have alcohol available at their Trivia night on March 11. We need to have conversations to see if we are all on board with that.
- Marty's experience about hall rental and alcohol policy includes what he has learned from his experience in looking for hall rentals for his nonprofit. Their next event is at Christ Memorial, which requires the organization to have their own insurance policy for accident insurance and alcohol licensing.
- Donovan will talk to Jeff about the Church's insurance carrier and insurance coverage for hall rental and alcohol policy.
- At some other UCC churches the fee for the ticket purchase also includes drinks of beer, soft drinks and water. The trivia participants can bring in other alcohol and other food items.
- Because of the policies of Keeping God's Children Safe, Amy and Lynn would not allow the youth to be present if there was alcohol, even though the event was a fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip. The policies have not been updated.
- Kathy said that she always appreciated that our Church's events did not have alcohol because it was a safe place to bring anyone who could not have alcohol.
- People spend more money at fundraisers when there is alcohol.
- This could be discussed at our Council Conversations in January.

We need to proceed with looking into the feasibility and what needs to be done to have hall rentals with alcohol.

Term Limits for Committees

Joy recommended that this topic be a separate project related to governance. The Governance Committee can also consider the possibility of creating a Building and Grounds Board. The following comments were made during this discussion.

A Board has more power and less oversight from Council than a committee.

A board is officially established under the Constitution's by-laws. Examples of our boards are Pre-School Board and Cemetery Board.

Council designates committees. Traditionally, the term limit for committee members was one-year because members were appointed for one year.

Many UCC churches include key committee chairs as part of their council, so it automatically creates term limits for them.

We are a 21st century church and have 20th century bylaws. Looking at how to update the bylaws may be an important project for the council this year.

Some committees are groups. It makes sense for some committees, like Caring Ministry and the Heritage Committee, to retain members for a longer period of time.

Trespass of home adjacent to church property

At the last Council Meeting a motion was made that a letter be sent to the property owners at 11734 Arboroak Lane, updating the agreement with the current owner. The letter is in process but has not been completed.

SEE EXECUTIVE SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Rental Properties

Repair of Leak in Suspended Sewer Pipe of the Parsonage:

Donovan said that there was a leak in the suspended sewer pipe under the floor of the parsonage. He said it is being investigated now by the same company who repaired the Church's sewer problem.

Renters:

Joy gave the history of the rental properties, and to whom they have been rented. The parsonage is now being rented by a needy family who wanted to remain in the Lindbergh school district and was recommended by a Lindbergh social worker. The other rental property that was the Sexton's residence is now being rented by Pastor Carole Barner and her husband.

Management of the Rental Properties:

DECA has been managing the property and the renewal of that contract is coming up. DECA gets 10% or 15% of the amount of the rent every month. They collect the money from the renters, and act as the contact for renters' houses emergencies. They have a list of companies on call who can deal with emergencies quickly.

DECA was also helpful in getting subsidies for the needy rental family.

Marty moved that DECA remain manager of the St. Lucas rental properties. Dave second the motion. The motion was accepted by a show of hands.

Joy will ask Jeff to renew the contract.

Home insurance: automatically renews and will move forward with renewing.

Other New Business

Opioid Presentation

Kathy asked that members put on their calendars: "The Current State of the Opioid Problem in our Local Community" led by Dr. Joseph Forand, Monday, January 30, 7:00 pm at St. Lucas and the presentation will also be available on Zoom.

Dates to Remember

Sign up for offering process:

Kathy and Marsha offered to do the offertory processing this Sunday. Sign up on Sign Up Genius for Saturdays and Sundays and extra services. Also, whoever processes the offering also processes the money from the coffee hour.

January 1, 10:00 am – Worship with installation of new leaders into elected positions – current leaders in elected positions are also welcome to join in the installation.

January 10-17, Pastor Carole's Vacation.

Retiring Members Left the Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF 2023 COUNCIL TO ELECT OFFICERS

Joy and Marty are going to orient the new members tomorrow at 3:00 pm.

The passcodes will be changed after the installation of the new officers. Marty will email all the passcode information after the installation. Also, there will be a Council retreat after the first of the year regarding what will be the tasks for the year. Marty will be in Mexico the first two weeks of January, so the retreat will probably be the weekend of the 21st or the 28th. The Chili Cookoff Fundraiser is 1/28. The Recording Secretary is responsible for updating the Council Contact List.

Marty complimented Joy for the great job she did this year. She was the right person at the right time.

Joy gave the information that her daughter and stepson had shared with her after they attended the 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service. Allison is a member of Ainsworth UCC in Portland and Will is a member of Manchester United Methodist.

- 1) Nothing was specifically said about how to give the offering, either at the back of the Church or electronically, which could have been puzzling for people who have not been at St. Lucas in the last couple years. They saw it as a missed opportunity.
- 2) Baskets for the offering were not passed around, but baskets for collection of the used communion cups were passed. Paul said that the current communion sets used fit into the pews.
- 3) The Screens that said Benediction did not add to the service. Kathy said that those screens were for the on-line audience.
- 4) The electric lighted candles, unlike the lighting of the wax candles, lacked the spiritual process of sharing the light with others during the singing of "Silent Night".. Paul said that using electric candles is a safety issue. Maybe the electric lighted candles could be passed out during the intro of "Silent Night", and as a person gets their candle, they could turn it on.
- 5) Leaving some of the sanctuary lights on at the end of the service vs. turning all the lights off in the sanctuary was discussed.
- 6) Allison (Joy's daughter) missed having the Congregation's participation in the liturgy. Discussion: Having congregation liturgists is at the pastor's discretion. Also, that is why we need a worship and music committee.

Marty moved and Jack seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned by a show of hands.

The meeting closed with the praying of the Lord's prayer.