

Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes February 21, 2017

Present: Pastor Karen Thompson, Josh Krenz, Paula Steinert, Casey Church, Steve Flannigan, Barbara Doddeck, Pastor Joene Herr

Pastor Karen called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. After an opening prayer by Pastor Karen, members shared God sightings or celebrations of an alive church.

The Council elected the following officers for 2107 by consensus: Casey Church, president; Pastor Karen, vice president; Peggy Krenz, treasurer; and Mark Dunham, secretary.

After discussion, the amended minutes of the December 13, 2016 regular meeting, the minutes of the January 17, 2017 regular meeting, and the minutes of the January 22, 2017 annual meeting were accepted by the Council. The amendments to the January minutes included the following: (1) correcting the reference from a "budgeted amount" to "discussion" of the doubling of the church cleaning costs.

The Council accepted the following reports from Ministry Teams:

Faith Formation: A booklet of devotions for Lent, including some large-print versions, will be available at the Church. During Lent, Steve Krenz will teach adult forum classes based on Luther's Small Catechism. During Lent, Pastor Joene will lead Wednesday prayer at 9:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. and will be based on "Awe and Love."

In Reach: Nichole Greenwell will be joining the visitation team and Parish Nurses. Pastor Karen continues work on forming a visitation ministry, and will coordinate with Parish Nurses to avoid duplication of effort.

Many people have volunteered to help with the Shrove Tuesday event. Pastor Joene stated she is considering creating a fellowship team that would plan and coordinate church social events and activities.

Outreach: Pastor Joene discussed the "Green Believer" statement by Rabbi Neal that circulated among the Interfaith Leadership Alliance congregations. To create a "Green Believer" program, representatives from each congregation form a steering committee. The committee will develop projects by or between the groups in support of an agreed-upon environment-enhancing goal. More information about the project will be put in the Sunday bulletin to find persons at CLC who would want to participate.

The Council discussed the various methods available to support immigrants, up to declaring CLC a sanctuary church, and reviewed materials concerning the range of potential activities and legal questions in regard to sanctuary activities by churches. Materials reviewed included a draft resolution on becoming a sanctuary church, a "toolkit" on the process, and a document from the UCC on legal risks. After that discussion, **the Council unanimously adopted a motion, made by Pastor Karen, seconded by Josh, to start a discernment and education program among CLC members to determine the appropriate role of CLC in the sanctuary movement, with a final recommendation for action to be taken up at the October Council meeting.**

Stewardship: Pastor Joene reported that to date CLC members had pledged \$123,000, or 64.4 %, of the 2017 budget for undesignated (general budget) giving. She noted that this is the first time that CLC has done a pledge drive in many years, and that there were fewer pledges than historical givers in some income brackets. The Stewardship Team will meet on March 9 and will discuss any follow up. The report was for information purposes only.

Welcoming and Aesthetics (W & A): Council members reviewed a summary of proposed and pending activities by the W & A Team, including the completion of the new table for the Zagan, pending purchase of the art hanging system, bulbs for Zagan lighting and completion of improvements to the Zagan closets. (Written report submitted).

Parish Nurse and Health: Paula reported that about 16 people attended the most recent session--on Family Dynamics--of the Conversation Project. The team will meet on March 9 and will discuss 1 or 2 more presentations in the project and a possible retreat.

The Council considered the following matters presented by the Resource Ministries Teams, with actions as noted below in each section.

Administration: After discussing the best way to locate members to fill the Council vacancy caused by the resignation of Beth Stephens, the Council agreed on the following actions: (1) Pastor Karen will request volunteers at services for the next 3 Sundays and discuss Council membership; and, (2) Pastor Joene will seek volunteers via the Thursday message.

Finance: Steve reported that employees had begun to receive the employee benefit for health care, and that federal income tax was being withheld in light of guidance documents about the taxability of the benefit. The Finance Team will continue to research this if and advise the Council if any further action is needed.

Steve also stated that two teams were working to implement the new on-line accounting system. One team is preparing the chart of accounts and should be done about a week after the meeting. A data-entry team will then begin to enter all income and expense information in the new system as soon as possible in January. Members have taken on-line training on using the system. An updated membership list is also needed for the data-entry phase.

Property and Maintenance (P & M): The Council discussed the need for additional janitorial work at CLC due to the high number of users and the need to keep recent improvements to the property in good condition. The Council discussed the possibility of additional visits by the janitor firm, opening the job to bids, and considering an on-site custodian compensated by housing. Josh noted that there have been volunteers for the annual cleaning. Concerns raised about an on-site janitor included insurance coverage, zoning requirements, building users' needs, including privacy, and costs. There was also discussion of whether the annual clean up could be a twice-yearly cleanup instead. The 2017 budget for church cleanings is \$4,800.

After this discussion, Pastor Karen agreed to consult with other congregations in regard to how they handled janitorial needs. The Council agreed that it will gather additional information before making a final decision.

Josh said he had trained 4 people to conduct monthly building inspections, scheduled them, and prepared a checklist for their use. He also stated he is working on a guidance document on how to lock and check the building when closing it. This document will be provided to church organizations, user groups, and posted on the website. He is also working on a list that will show all maintenance and repair items for the CLC plant. This will be guidance for P & M teams in the future. He was asked to separate improvement needs from ongoing tasks.

Treasurer: Steve gave the Treasurer's report. For January 1-17, 2016, there was a total income of \$14,644, which was \$495 above the budgeted amount for this period. Restricted offerings were \$1,804, which was \$1,192 above the budgeted amount. The overage represented Christmas gifts for Pastor Joene and Gloria. Expenses were \$17,909, which was \$596 above the amount budgeted for this period. The difference was attributed to Pastor's Christmas gift, snow removal, \$300 in Food Pantry expenses above the amount budgeted, and printing expenses for annual meeting. (The complete report is attached by reference.)

Steve also presented a report showing the changes in unrestricted giving (average) over a 4-year period. This analysis showed that monthly collections ranged between \$12-14,000 from January to November, and spiked to about \$18,000 in December. This was presented for information purposes for future planning and budgeting.

Pastor's Report: Following are the highlights of the report: (1) Pastor Anne and a representative of Luther House in Albuquerque will lead worship on April 2 as part of Pastor Anne's pre-retirement tour; (2) the YouthWorks Emergency Shelter will be at CLC on March 13-20 and this will probably be the last time they will be housed at CLC; (3) she has completed her period of jury service; (4) the new Council and team leaders retreat will be on Saturday, February 25; (5) a date will be set in the Spring for a two-year review of the Transition Report (January 2014). Other items were covered earlier in the meeting.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation about 8:30 p.m. Pastor Karen expressed her thanks for Barbara's agreement to serve, and for the work by the Council over the past year.

Prepared by President C. J. Church, and edited by Secretary Mark Dunham