

Council Minutes

February 21, 2022, 6:00 pm

Attending: David Weisser, Deborah Dreher, Sadie Reiners, Pam Hoffman, Cindy Toppin, Abby Schultz, Marjorie Peterson, Bruce Arndtson, Pastor Geier and Lois Twedt.

Call to Order 6 p.m.

Cindy made a motion to approve the January minutes. Abby made the second. Motion carried.

Cindy made a motion to approve the January financial report. Bruce made the second. Motion carried.

Bruce made a motion to approve the January Treasurer's Report. Pam made the second. Motion carried.

Treasurer Deborah Dreher

No Council Action Required

St. Philip's Lutheran Church began 2022 in good financial position. Total Giving for January is 4.33% over Budget while Total Expenses for January are 3.52% under Budget.

The Balance Sheet Comparison Report replaces the Balance Sheet Report (Report A). The new report includes comparison to prior year information.

New Business

Year-end tithing benevolence, in the amount of \$26,687, was approved during the Annual Meeting. These donations will be processed during February. However, since Hastings Family Service (HFS) receives matching donations during the month of March, our check for HFS will be mailed after March 1, 2022.

Below is the list of donations:

Hastings Family Service \$6,672 United Way Hastings Food4Kids \$4,003 The Lewis House \$2,669

Dakota County Matrix Emergency \$4,003 My Very Own Bed \$1,334 ELCA Planting Hope \$1,334

On January 11, 2022, a principal-only mortgage payment in the amount of \$10,000 was processed. When funds in the Capital Fund equal or exceed four months mortgage payments, the Finance Ministry Team approves a principle-only payment. The mortgage balance, as of January 31, 2022, is \$1,987,976.

Vice President Sadie Reiners

The information covered in this report was provided by Glenda Schnirring.

The Building and Grounds committee met on February 9:

- There are ants in the church. The infestation is of such a degree that Glenda has booked Plunkett Pest Control to treat the ELC rooms and kitchen areas on Friday, February 17. Heidi and others have done all they can to address the problem.

- Bill Pavlish has been tending to repairs in one of the restrooms with success plus other routine checks he does.

- Paul Swanstrom has accomplished a larger fix in ELC 2 which had a drain lift malfunction creating a wet carpet. Paul has since then taken the entire unit from the room, cleaned years of soil off it. He also took the electrical box apart which is where the problem was. He replaced a spring and has reinstalled it in the cabinet of ELC 2. If this repair fails, a new one will be in the \$400 range. Hours were spent on this fix.
- Steve Wolverton has done plumbing fixes recently also and now has his eye on burned out bulbs in the main sanctuary. When there are four out, will get a team together for support on the ladder and get them replaced by Easter. Steve has replaced LED bulbs in the old narthex which seem to be a bit brighter and will last longer. The old bulbs were saved to use as replacements until they're gone.
- Looking ahead, the lower tier windows will be washed on both sides as will the sliding glass door in the narthex by Easter. Vendor for this is Fine Shine.
- AC replacement has been ordered. Controlled Air will act on the Youth Room replacement. Jake Marthaler the sales rep will provide any price change soon. Current bid is \$5600.
- Bathrick's Appliance has been told to replace the mini splits in the Fellowship Room. The bid for these were \$4700 each. We will need two. We'll try to have the outside units installed to minimize invasion of mice.
- Spring plans are to tie and cut the tall grasses in April, and fill cracks in the parking lot that have widened. Al Todnem and Bill Pavlish will address the grasses. The blacktop cracks will need to be addressed this year. However, this was not allowed for in the budget.
- Al Todnem has volunteered to groom the courtyard surround in the spring.
- Bruce Arndtson and Dave Tank will be vacuuming the ceiling vents throughout the church and vacuum the kitchen refrigerator coils and clean the hood over the range.

Serving Ministry Pam Hoffman

Grant Proposal: Gleaning from the Harvest Ministry Grant, Glenda explained the \$5,000 grant she is seeking from the Synod. The proposal: July 19, at 6:00 St. Philip's would sponsor artist Paul Oman to create a painting at the Rotary Pavilion. The theme would be around cultural diversity, unity and inclusion. His fee is \$5,000. Glenda estimates the project would cost at \$5,700. She talked to Bruce Karnick, who would be available for sound and music system, and she is looking into possible speakers from residents of Art Space. She's pursuing areas in the city where the painting could be displayed when completed. Hastings Family Service offered its space. Margaret thought maybe Thrivent could also help sponsor with the extra funds needed. Winners of grants should be made known by mid-March. The committee did not discuss how much Fellowship Ministry could contribute if more money is still needed.

Grad Care Packages: There were fifteen 2021 grads. The committee wrote messages on St. P's notecards, personalized "Pocket Prayers" books, and addressed mailing envelopes. A few addresses are still needed. The packets will be mailed through the church office.

HR Committee Report - Cindy Toppin

No meetings this month.

No council action needed.

Annual letters to the employees regarding their 2022 salaries have been sent.

Worship Coordinator Report – Marjorie Peterson

The Worship and Ministry Team met on February 1.
No Council action is required.

A motion was passed to authorize the purchase of microphones for the sanctuary using donations designated as "worship related enhancement." John has been spending extra time learning how to use new software and has been authorized additional hours. An option for "moving" backgrounds on slides is available, but the team felt this could be too distracting and does not recommend its use.

Future Planning:

Ash Wednesday is on March 2. Imposition of ashes will be offered for those who wish to come forward. The Holden Evening Prayer will be used for Lenten services. Lenten services will be live-streamed using the static format. Sarah Bennet will be contacting students about recording musical pieces to be shown at services.

Sanctuary Issues:

An article is being placed in the newsletter concerning the sanctuary temperature set at 70 degrees, the blinds, and the issue of interrupting those on duty in the sound booth.

Royalties when using Spirituals has been researched by Darlene Olson. This topic will be addressed at the March meeting.

Synodical Ministry Grant Program:

Our proposal was submitted by Feb. 8. If awarded, plans include:

A newspaper ad

Bouncy House and Obstacle Course for children

Notifying neighbors with fliers

Posting fliers around the community

Info available about St. Philip's for visitors

Date for this event will be June 19, 2022

Learning Ministries Report – Abby Schultz

Preschool Registration is open.

The National Youth Conference has been canceled, but we are looking at other youth events as possibilities.

Confirmation students are invited to a retreat at Schaar's Buff Gathering Center on April 2.

Mentors for confirmation students will be trained on Wed., Feb.23.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Bruce Arndtson

Thank you to Lori Best and Abby Schultz for running the technology at the annual meeting.

There were a few issues with members on Zoom being able to hear from the microphone.

Pastor Geier – February 2022 Council Report

- This month I have checked in with our Worship, Finance, Fellowship and Stewardship Ministry Teams.
- It is my understanding that we have submitted two grant applications to the synod.
- Four people "checked their tech" on Saturday February 5th. I am thinking a smaller window will suffice in the future.

- Special thanks to Lori Best and Abbie Schultz for their help navigating the Zoom portion of our annual meeting.
- Back on January 8th, David Weisser and I attended the synod's first toolbox seminar and on February 26th eight people (so far) from St. Philip's will be participating in the next series of workshops. Tomorrow is the deadline if anyone wishes to join us.
- I have had several conversations with the folks from LiveControl and think that the service on February 13th was much better and closer to our expectations. Nevertheless, I would welcome feedback.
- February 27th is our new goal for implementing ProPresenter 7.
- It was an honor to walk with Lenora Holtorf's family before she died and in the planning and presiding of her memorial worship service.
- While there are undoubtedly many members in need of our support, I would lift up the Klebs and Wegeners as two couples along with Norm Holtorf for us to spend extra energy and prayers nurturing and caring for them.
- I will be concluding our Adult Spiritual Growth sessions on Ibram X. Kendi's book How to be an Anti-Racist on February 27th and begin teaching the 56ers Sunday School class on March 6th
- I also attended a Racial Healing Webinar on January 25th and webinar on Racial Inequity on February 3rd.
- I attended the Hastings Ministerial Association on January 26th and our synod's South Conference meeting on January 27th and our conference caucus on February 12th.
- Our themes for our midweek Lenten services will be "Facets of Forgiveness" and those services will be livestreamed with a static shot. We will look for reactions to static shot following the Lenten services.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business

A discussion was held on worship and COVID considerations. Some members feel a second service would offer an alternative service—non-traditional and time. Other members feel we are not ready for two services as it is difficult to find worship leaders to fill the roles and there are not enough in attendance to warrant two services. The Worship and Music Committee as well as Council will continue this discussion.

Bruce made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deborah seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary