

Council Minutes

January 16, 2023, 6:00 pm

In person or Zoom

Attending: David Weisser, Deborah Dreher, Sadie Reiners, Pam Hoffman, Cindy Toppin, Marjorie Peterson, Abby Mattimiro, Bruce Arndtson, Pastor Geier, Dan Strehlow, Lois Twedt

Call to Order at 6:02 p.m. by President David Weisser

Secretary's Report—Lois Twedt

Bruce made a motion to accept the December minutes and Marjorie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report--Deborah Dreher

No Council Action Required

St. Philip's Lutheran Church finishes 2022 in good financial position. Review of December 2022 Financial Reports indicate 2022 year-to-date Giving in three categories, General, Capital and Miscellaneous ahead of Budget by 1.02%. Expenses are under Budget by 10.79%. Net Cash is \$96,823, primarily due to open staff positions.

Budget Process 2023: Congregational Meeting to review 2023 Annual Budget is scheduled for Sunday, January 29, following Worship. Deborah will lead the meeting with FMT members in attendance to assist.

2023 Pledge Cards: To date, 109 cards with specific pledges have been returned. General Giving pledges total \$321,000, approx. \$46,000 higher than 2022. For Capital Giving, pledges total \$159,500, approx. \$25,000 higher than 2022.

Motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Bruce to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Vice President Sadie Reiners

No Council Action Required

- There has been no formal meeting of the building and grounds committee since December.
- The mice invasion is seemingly in check. Plunkett's will soon be doing a follow-up.
- Snow is being deposited on the surface of the southern perimeter of the lot because of two neighbors claiming snow melt run-off floods their back yards. Not putting snow on the grass area of SPLC property was our response to their grievance. Precision is cooperating with this change in how to handle our snow. Not as easy as it sounds.
- NO other building issues have emerged since December.

- Glenda has drafted the annual report for B & G which will be in on schedule.
- A budget increase was submitted which would cover the surfacing and striping of the parking lot. We will consult with finance in late spring as to the feasibility of doing this job which is estimated at almost \$16,000

Serving Ministry Report--Pam Hoffman

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry

Max Lucado book, Pocket Prayers will be sent to 2022 high school grads.

Glenda updated the Volunteer Form.

Potluck will be after the Annual Meeting.

A-I Main Dish

J-R Salad

S-Z Dessert

This will be in the bulletin, newsletter and possibly go out on a postcard.

Ladies Night is being planned for the summer.

Stewardship

“Embody Our Mission” was the theme for the stewardship emphasis.

The results of the Stewardship Pledge campaign are as follows:

Pledge cards returned for 2023, General Fund - 113. Total Pledged - \$320,890 (this is up by \$46,395 from one year ago). (5 of the 113 cards were returned as “give as able”)

Pledge cards returned for 2023 Capital Fund - 82. Total Pledged - \$159,542 (this is up by \$24,782 from one year ago.)

Non-pledged giving will traditionally be sufficient to meeting budget demands. I am pleased with the campaign’s result, as I am a full believer in pledging for the two individual funds, General and Capital.

The January 10 Stewardship meeting reviewed the campaign, read through the annual report that will be submitted and discussed a new 2023 Time and Talent Form.

The new Time and Talent form for 2023 will be sent to households separately with a cover note and a return envelope (with a stamp). The forms will go to households from the member list with some editing as to member locations and known factors which would make a response unreasonable.

HR Report-- Cindy Toppin

No Council Action Required

Nothing new to report.

Worship Ministry Report-- Marjorie Peterson

No Council action required.

Service Debrief: The Christmas season seemed to go smoothly. Moving the kiosk near the front door has encouraged more use of name tags.

Communion cart assignments were made. Pastor Geier will be doing the readings on the first Sundays of the month. Gary Afdahl has agreed to sub for Noreen as needed.

Future Planning: An ecumenical service for Ukraine is being planned, hosted by SPLC. It will be held in the evening close to the one-year date of the beginning of the conflict.

Kneelers will be in place for Lent. The table of free publications will remain near the front door through January 22. This team approved of having a summer outdoor service similar to last year's service. Planning will begin.

Other business: Pew pads were removed for sanitation purposes at the start of the pandemic. They will be reinstated.

During this time of transition, it was suggested that information should go out to the congregation about what the prayer team does, how it can be used, and the differences between it and the prayer chain, The team agreed that David Haas music should no longer be used at SPLC. This Catholic composer of Christian music has had accusations made against him for sexual harassment and abuse of women. Many other organizations, including the Catholic church, are doing the same. There are four hymns by him in the ELW including "We are Called."

Learning Ministries Report --Abby Mattimiro

No Council Action Required

Preschool:

- Enrollment has gone up by one since our last meeting with 48 spots being filled

- The topic of raising tuition was the main thing for this meeting. We did send out information on raising tuition to our team members unable to attend last night's meeting via email prior to the meeting as well. Either via email vote or in person it was agreed on by the team to make the following changes:

M/W/F will go from \$180 a month to \$190

T/Th will go from \$150 a month to \$160

M-F will go from \$305 a month to \$315 (this class did not have a rate increase for the 2022/20223 school year)

Registration fees will stay at \$60

These prices will be the same as Tilden's for T/Th and for M/W/F classes and \$15 higher for 5 days.

(note--Tilden is 2 ½ hours a day and we are 3)

SEAS numbers came in at \$300 for M/W/F, \$200 for T/TH, and \$500 for 5 days. These numbers took a huge jump, as our costs were comparable this year, we are unsure what is happening with those decisions.

· Registration for the 2023/2024 school year starts for current and church families February 22 and opens to everyone February 28 at 5:30

· Budget was reviewed. While numbers and income are low, we have been able to keep spending to a minimum with the help of state grants, fundraising, and generosity of our preschool and church families. We were also gifted an anonymous donation of 5,000 from someone who sent it to us through the Sharing Tree out of Hudson. It came with a note saying please use funds for programming at our preschool. We will be prayerfully deciding how this money can best serve our families. Ideas so far include curriculum books, new STEM toys for classroom, spring field trip, or someone coming into the program such as carpenter nature center.

· Preschool annual report was reviewed by members and approved by team to submit.

Faith Formations:

Pastor will be calling Camp Wapo to request information on their camp experience.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Bruce Arndtson

A new computer has been ordered for Christine Rydel, Business Manager.

Pastor Geier – January 2023 Council Report

- Services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day went well thanks to the many who served.
- On 1/12 I attended our South Conference meeting at Easter Lutheran in Eagan.
- I have scheduled our Council/Leadership Retreat for March 19th.
- I have scheduled for St. Philip's to host an ecumenical "Prayers for Ukraine" worship service on February 19th at 4:00 to mark the anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Several area pastors have agreed to participate. Cindy suggested that it was not necessary to offer coffee and cookies following the service. The Council agreed with this suggestion. Pastor is still looking at ministries/charities that would be the best destination for our offering.
- Lent starts next month on the 22nd, and I have just decided to do a preaching series on prayer. I am thinking this may coincide with something Jennie Orr Thomas will lead for Sunday Morning Adult Spiritual Growth during Lent.
- Speaking of Lent, with the absence of a CYF staff person, I will be needing to write our confirmation/mentor workbooks.
- We also need to be connecting students and mentors.
- Camp Sunday is next Sunday, and I am trying to find a musician to help lead music as the staff person coming from GLLM will not be able to do so. (Yes, I have already asked Nathan G. and he has a gig up in Nisswa that weekend.)
- I would like to try a "dress rehearsal" for the Zoom component of our Annual meeting on January 29th after worship. This would be in conjunction with the Budget Review and would require some folks at home or at least in the prayer chapel to participate.

- February 4 will be an opportunity to ‘check your tech’ in preparation for the annual meeting.
- There will be no Butter Braid sale, Silent Auction or Spaghetti Supper fundraisers for the campers. Instead, Cindy suggested having a free-will offering for the camp attendees and, council agreed with this plan.
- Dakota Matrix Shelter is no longer in existence and will be removed from the list of Tithe Benevolence options.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.
Your Servant in Christ,
Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business

The Sign Up Genius app that notifies members of volunteer opportunities at Hastings Family Service, driving Ellen to appointments, etc. is going very smoothly. Many members are wanting volunteer opportunities. This site is being managed by Tom Bullington.

New Business

There is a \$2800 balance in a fund designated for Third Thursday meals. These funds need to be donated to an alternative food outlet—HFS, United Way Food 4 Kids, etc. The Council will consider options at the next meeting.

Motion was made by Deborah and seconded by Bruce to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Cindy thanked David for his leadership these past 2 years.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary