



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2023

Attendees: Sam Carter, Joe Baggett, Cheryl Smith, Vivian Jefferson, Karen Faulkner, Anne Geiger, Gene Bain, Gary Wolfe, Chip Edwards, Chris Nelson, Pastor Martin Eldred, Jeremy Shoop

Absent: Carol Shaffer

I. Call to Order

Sam Carter called to order the Zoom meeting of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC) Council at 7:00 p.m.

II. Devotions

Sam Carter led devotions and Pastor Martin led the opening prayer.

III. Draft Agenda

- Call to Order
- Devotions – Sam Carter
- Approval of the Minutes
- Treasurer’s Report and Approval
- Director of Music and Liturgy Report
- Pastor’s Report
- Reading of correspondence
- Reports of ministry teams
- VP/Finance Committee Report
- Unfinished Business
 1. Reminder of wedding gift from Council to Bishop Ortiz - suggested amount?
 2. Suggestions for vacant positions
 - a. VP
 - b. Youth
- New Business
 1. Council Retreat
 - a. Date (2/11 or 2/25)
 - b. Topics
 - i. Orientation/Familiarization
 - ii. Revisit Goals/Mission Statement
 - iii. Plans for 2023
 2. ExComm Recommendation for Allocation of Rebuild VA Grant Funds (\$54,281)
 - a. Purchase Defibrillator & Cabinet, Supplies & Initial CPR Training (~\$3,300)
 - b. Add Balance to existing funds to complete Building Project (~\$51,000)

Closing prayer
Adjournment

IV. Approval of Minutes

Anne Geiger made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2022 meeting. The minutes were approved. Joe Baggett seconded approval. The motion passed with one person abstaining.

V. Treasurer's Report

Joe Baggett submitted his report prior to the meeting. Joe said that we had another positive report and ended the year strong. We had some bumps but came back. The Gouldman account was down in November but in the last ten days, it went up to \$51,911. Anne Geiger made the motion to approve the report and was seconded by Gary Wolfe. All voted in favor of approval.

VI. Director of Music and Liturgy Report

Jeremy Shoop submitted a written report. It's self-explanatory. Jeremy thanked everyone for their work on the Reconciling in Christ initiative. Despite roadblocks, this is important work. Looking through Brian's eyes, the bulletin is user friendly. Brian could help to find areas for improvement, but the main takeaway is that he found it easy to use. Beer and Carols was a wonderful event and we're looking forward to the July 4th event.

VII. Pastor's Report

Pastor Martin submitted his report. It is self-explanatory. Christmas Eve went really well and it worked well including the attendees from the Lunch for the Soul group. Next year will be better since we've already done it. Pastor is excited about people coming back. He has three scheduled pre-marital meetings. This is new for Pastor Martin since he's been here. The use of puppets is also one of the ways that God uses to reach people. Pastor is not a puppeteer, but the Spirit leads us. Now it is part of who we are. It is not about Pastor and he is not trained to do it, it just blossomed. Sometimes this is how the Spirit does things. Confirmation Class has started. Teaching confirmation is one of Pastor's favorite things to do.

VIII. Correspondence

No report. Cheryl reminded everyone about signing up to lead devotions at upcoming council meetings.

IX. Reports of Ministry Teams

Education – Chip Edwards had a question regarding the child protection oversight policy. He was referred to the CPO group. Anne Geiger suggested this may be a question for Suzanne Baggett. He is planning to have a meeting with all adults that work with children. He will read the CPO policy. Suzanne will do the training. He'll work with Virginia and Sarah to make sure the meetings get put on the calendar. ELL is coming back in person. Gene Bain reminded Chip that two people are needed for child care. Chip said no one is lined up. Right now, Beatrice is doing it, but it's not beneficial for her to continue.

Evangelism - Karen Faulkner reported that they are moving ahead for upcoming events in 2023. She will work with the Town of Herndon on the Easter Egg Hunt. An egg hunt will be held at Holy Cross. Karen will

get the dates. The Card Brigade is moving ahead. The committee is talking at looking at membership issues and will keep that on the front burners.

Worship – Carol Shaffer was not in attendance. It was noted at the electrified candle came in this past week. Gary Wolfe and Sam Carter will look into getting it installed.

Fellowship – Anne Geiger submitted a written report. Anne said that at the end of her sister’s worship service, every person in the congregation goes into fellowship. Anne asked how do we get people to do that. Pastor said he could stand by the doors leading into the Fellowship Hall. Anne said she was so proud at the dinner with the Lunch for the Soul Christmas Eve dinner. She said everyone split up and sat with the men. She is planning for 2023: the July 4th event; Kiss Me Kate in April (could we do something as a group?); MLK day (Vivian will talk about that)

Outreach – Vivian Jefferson submitted a written report where she highlights the day of service. Thanks to Deb Reilly’s organizational skills, everything worked well. It is a great partnership with Herndon Woman’s Club and the Scouts. 65 kits were completed; need to finish 18 but there were a few missing items. Vivian is thrilled with how it turned out. 57 people signed in to work that day. Vivian and Pastor will meet to talk about things to do for next year. It was suggested that other council members meet with Pastor to review activities.

Personnel – Gene Bain said he assumed the paychecks the staff got are OK as he did not receive any complaints.

Property – Gary Wolfe submitted a written report. Gary and Joe Makowski replaced the faucet in the kitchen. Sam Carter mentioned that the undergrowth as you approach the church from the Rt. 28 side is out of control and you can’t see the sign when approaching from that side. Gary said he will add it to his list. Gary said there are two choices on the roof: build a superstructure on top and put on shingles or go up and slap membranes on for a very long time as an ongoing maintenance project. He said we might want to get a roll to patch holes and put it up along the sides as well. Pastor Martin asked if we’re planning to keep a flat roof as opposed to putting a peak roof over it. Gary got a bid for the back half of the building for \$36,000 and they would guarantee it for two years only. Pastor Martin asked if we knew how much it would cost to replace the roof. Sam said we could form a study group. For now, we’re talking about members (Gary and Joe Makowski) doing it as it makes more sense. Pastor said we should think about long-range solutions. Anne Geiger will followup with Gary to discuss.

Stewardship – Chris Nelson talked with Deb Reilly about her working with Thrivent to get some financial help. We should take advantage of that. Pastor Martin said there are some food opportunities available. Chris said he will connect with Pastor Martin but he is looking at doing something for the Spring. Synod has six-week Giving Thanksgiving program. He’s working on videos to get out asking for contributions. Chris thanked Jeremy for creating the QR code. It’s a great addition. We have to figure out ways to get people to donate to the church to make it more user friendly. Joe asked if we know what percentage comes in through online vs. regular giving. Virginia would be in a better position to give the answer to that.

X. Vice President/Finance Committee Report

They are in the process of reconciling last year’s figures. There is a \$50 discrepancy that they are looking to find. Charlie opened a new set of books on January 1 and that will change the reports somewhat.

Unfinished Business

1. Reminder to make a donation to the Puentes Fund as a wedding gift to Bishop Ortiz. Notify Sarah and Virginia in this regard.
2. Sam mentioned that the Vice President and Youth positions are still open. Philip Isiah has expressed an interest in serving as vice president. Joe Baggett talked with Philip and he said he is not in a position to take on any more duties for Holy Cross. Sam said that being vice president does not mean you move up to the president's role. He said it might be useful to put an article in the Quest, or Pastor Martin could speak with a few people. Perhaps it could be brought up in a Temple Talk. Pastor said that Philip will represent us at Synod Assembly.

New Business

The charity for the Lenten Appeal will be ELCA World Hunger. Anne Geiger made the motion to accept this charity. Karen Faulkner seconded. All voted in favor. Vivian will submit an article for inclusion in February's Quest. Vivian Jefferson submitted a motion that the offering on Wednesday night's services during Lent should go to the appeal. Anne Geiger seconded it. All voted in favor of the motion. Pastor said that 96% of the funds that go to the ELCA World Hunger appeals go to the people on the ground.

We need to have two people on the nursery staff during ELL classes for liability insurance purposes. Beatrice said it's not worth her while to do that. Gene Bain asked what it would take to make it worth her while. Sam asked Pastor Martin if someone from the other church groups who meet here might have someone who would like to do it. Beatrice gets \$15.93 an hour. The question was asked if we should pay her mileage? Joe asked what is the intent of the need? We need to have a better understanding of that. We need to find out what our options are. Gene said that mileage is 65.5 cents. We're paying the admins \$40 so we might look at hiring two new people.

Deb Reilly will monitor the council retreat. We haven't had a retreat since the pandemic. Sam said we need to become familiar with orientation/familiarization; revisit goals and the mission statement; and Plans for 2023. The 25th of February is the day of the retreat. We will have a council meeting in addition in February. Joe Baggett suggested we have in-person meetings. Sam said February will be a zoom meeting and March will be in person. Pastor Martin said if you have a preference, talk with Sam. The third Monday in February is a holiday so the meeting is moved up to the February 13th. The retreat will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Deb Reilly did a wonderful job in getting the unique ID Number and went back and got the grant money in the amount of \$54,281. We will use some of the money to get a defibrillator. We can get one with an alarm between \$3,000 and \$3,500 with training for five people and a cabinet. Anne Geiger moved we move forward with purchasing the defibrillator. Karen Faulkner seconded. All voted in favor. Pastor Martin mentioned that Cheryl Smith purchased a thank-you gift for Deb Reilly for her efforts in acquiring the grant. It will be given to Deb at one of the worship services.

Cheryl was asked to send a thank you to Darlene King's husband, Alan for his donation of a TV from the bowling alley. A thank-you note will be sent to Ron Hacker for his donation of three laptops for church use. He set it up for the two admins to access remotely. The other laptop has a slightly larger screen and it is loaded with paid-up software. A thank you will be sent to James and John Morgan for their help with decorating and taking down the Christmas decorations as well as replacing light bulbs.

Chris Nelson asked if we need to vote on having the pack use the conference room. Gary said this is a property chair issue as a building use agreement. Anne will be the liaison.

Adjourn

Pastor Martin led the closing prayer. Anne Geiger made a motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. The motion was seconded by Gary Wolfe. All approved.

REMINDERS:

Devotions

February – Vivian Jefferson

March – Joe Baggett

Meetings

February 9 – ExComm (4:00 p.m.)

February 13 – Council Meeting (Zoom @ 7:00 p.m.)

February 25th – Council Retreat (Fellowship Hall @ 9:00 a.m.)

March 20 – Council Meeting – (In-Person @ 7 p.m.)