

**Christ Lutheran Church
Congregational Council
Agenda
January 11, 2016**

Eric Moehring	Judy Garnett	Jim Schnellenberger	Jim Pickels
Cathleen Jacobson	Sandra Bocclair	Jim Ingraham	Carol Jones
Darren D'Ateno			
Absent:	none		
Non-voting:	Paul Quel	Diane Kellogg	

Devotions: (Jim Ingraham)

Appointment of New Council Members: Due to the resignation of 2 council members, Carol Jones (for Patty Franz term ending 12/16) and Darren D'Ateno (Bill Dotson term ending 12/17) were invited to join council. Council will vote to appoint these people, with final election at the next congregational meeting. Motion made to appoint Carol and Darren. 2nd. Vote: unanimous.

Election of 2016 Officers: President: Jim Ingraham. **Vice President:** Jim Schnellenberger. Both elected by secret written ballot tabulated by Paul Quel.

Financial Report (Paul): 2015 finished with \$35,000 surplus, offerings exceeded pledges. As of December 31, 2015 we have \$82,000 in reserve funds. Budget expenses mostly inline. Apparently flower checks do not appear to be complete, since people are not indicating that their checks are for flowers. Jim I summarized Paul's report in a concise manner to identify the source of the budget surplus.

Pastor's Report: No formal report, Danielle Bosdell wrote a thank you for the funding of part of her fee for the psychological profile portion of her candidacy process.

President's Report: No formal report, some expenses were over budget that were not approved by council. One overage was with Stewardship's "Book of Glad". Please let council know of any budget spending overages, so we don't encounter any surprises we aren't able to deal with. Thank you notes received from Linda Keener and Martina Cathey thanking council for their Christmas gifts. For the past 6 weeks or so, Jim Schnellenberger, the men's group and some others have done extensive needed repairs at Margie Werner's home. Margie is a long-time member of CLC and was in danger of losing her home insurance if these repairs were not completed by the end of

December. Margie's daughter Cheryl advised Jim Ingraham that all of the repairs were approved by the insurance inspector on January 11, 2016 and her mother's insurance will not be cancelled. This is a great example of our church coming together to help one of our own who was in need of assistance.

Council Ministry Reports/Assignments

- Devotion assignments made.
- Doorkeeper assignments made.
- **Property**—Paul Quel advised Richard Tripp is still waiting on Dominion to come to the property regarding the rebate/credit for getting the lights redone. Everything else has been done, and we are only waiting on word from Dominion that we do have the credit. Downstairs remodel is nearly complete; a few baseboards need to be done, things need to be moved, and possibly the doors need to be redone. Several items need to be thrown out (like the pool table).
- **Stewardship**—Cathleen/Jim Ingraham: Projected offerings in 2016 budget are \$289,000 Campaign started late September, 119 commitment letters mailed out (pledge units), returned 72 firm commitments, 28 indicated will give as able, total response ~100, ~81% response rate. Taking into account firm pledges of \$202,000 plus the “as able” commitments, and those who usually give but don't pledge; Stewardship estimates a total commitment of \$274,000, or 95% of projected budget. Next Tuesday will be the first stewardship meeting for this year.
- **Evangelism**—Jim Schnellenberger, looking for more new participants. It was suggested that we implement a new “contact” ministry that would follow-up with visitors and help develop new members, and also would take note of current members who are not attending on Sundays. The idea would be to reach out to these members to make sure there are no issues that may ultimately lead to them leaving CLC. This would be similar to the “Shepherding List” program that was in place several years ago. Jim Ingraham noted that, as with all ministries, the idea is a great concept but we need manpower to make it work. Evangelism will make it a goal to study this idea and try to get it implemented.
- **Youth/Family Ministries**—Pastor Moehring/Cathleen Jacobson. Meeting held yesterday with people interested in reviving youth programs. High school age and 5th and 6th graders. Will have their first gathering on 2/21, in the new downstairs location, from 4-8 pm, opportunities to watch movies, do homework, talk, have pizza, do a study, pick a topic, then talk about it. Hopefully expand into synod activities (Lost & Found, Kairos, 7th Day, etc). Also discussed working with Lakeside Area churches about

having some combined area youth event. We will need 2 adult supervisors, want more than just the parents of the youth to sign up and help. Next meeting for the youth is 1/24/16

- **Christian Education/Faith Formation;** The displays for Advent were very meaningful. The Epiphany service was an amazing experience. Betty Schnellenberger and Edith Ingraham coordinated the food, which was also amazing. Will be looking at summer schedule, Lent schedules.
- **Collective/Property**—Jim Pickels Thanksgiving, Angel Tree all went well;
- Liaisons (YMCA, Apostolic Church, Moody MS)
- **Audit** Julie Miller advises the audit is essentially finished, a few items still need to be researched, and then it should be complete. A letter will be drafted stating outcome of the audit, which will be included in the annual report.
- **Finance Committee;** met last week, discussed allocation of the reserve funds on hand, will meet next week to discuss loose ends of the audit, and discuss possibility of investing some of the reserve funds.
- **IT & Communications**—Heather Heckel reports that their main focus on getting wireless into the basement and to the education wing. They thought they had a good solution, but ran into a problem with power sources, we will have to purchase some wire, because the priority is getting the signal downstairs as opposed to the education wing. Also the mass email issues are being investigated. Heather suggested we look into mail chimp, and she will help Tina set up emails. Up to 12,000 emails a month at no charge. Motion to authorize Heather to work with Tina to find a solution. Motion seconded; vote: unanimous.
- **Vision** Jim Schnellenberger: Moving into implementation of the vision. It's a learning and refining process, incorporating the new council members during the retreat. Started the vision series during Sunday school. Becoming more welcoming, talked about hospitality the difference between being welcoming, hospitable, and bringing them through the whole process. Will be presenting the types of things people need to be focused on as part of renewal. Looking for council guidance back to the committee, by March, as to what the focus needs to be as we move forward.

Old Business

- Lighting project update—waiting on confirmation from Dominion regarding the rebate.
- Reschedule of Annual Meeting (Feb 28) 10:00 am.

New Business

- Council Duties—Devotions, scheduled. Door keepers; possibly ask ushers for early service, and former council members that attend early service. Jim I asked Jim P to help organize openers.
- Jim Schnellenberger suggested that we share the updated information sent to new council members (constitution, continuing resolutions, contact list for council, 2016 budget).
- Council Ministry assignments Jim I will email the assignment sheet to council, and wants people to respond with their choices by the end of the week.
- Allocation of Reserve Funds: At end of 2015, we had ~\$88,500. Decided to hold ~\$25,000 as readily available funds. Historically these funds have been held in a generic “Reserve Fund.” While it is appropriate to maintain a reserve fund, it would be more responsible for council to allocate most of these funds for specific purposes so the congregation knows their contributions are being used for the benefit of the church and not just “stashed away”. Discussed possible allocations. 10% of 2015 surplus to synod benevolence (\$3,500), we are still below what synod recommends for benevolence), \$5000 for first year of lighting lease, major project to repair/refurbish front doors (\$4500); maintenance/repair reserve of \$10,000 to cover large expenses such as A/C or furnace repair, pew repair/refurbish (~\$20,000 to start), ~\$10,000 for parking lot repair/repaving; organ repair; \$2,000 set aside, already have \$1200 in the organ fund, Seminarian fund: \$1,000, telephone upgrade \$2000. A worksheet summarizing these allocations was presented to council for consideration and discussion, but not voted on this month. Plan is to discuss and finalize at the February meeting and present a recommendation at the annual meeting for congregation approval.
- Planning for Council Retreat/Meeting (Saturday, March 5, 9 am-2pm)
- Annual Reports—some have been received, please get them in ASAP. Pastor, Tina and Jim I need to receive, edit, compile and distribute the annual report by the end of January at the latest.
- Jim Schnellenberger—update on video doorbell, ~\$225.00, would like authorization to order and install, motion made, seconded, question, does this increase the property budget by that amount? Approve the \$225.00 for the video camera, pending approval of property committee, vote : unanimous.

- Jim I would like to authorize the purchase of more pew pencils, (and a pencil sharpener?). Motion to authorize \$100 from the administrative budget for more pencils, motion seconded, vote: unanimous.
- Jim Schnellenberger, as part of the visioning/welcoming/hospitality, there is no place for adults to go; would like to propose turning Pastor Kristin's old office into a hospitality room for adults. Would include soft furnishings, tables. Motion to explore the concept. Motion seconded. Vote: unanimous.
- A question was raised regarding the number of council members. Jim Ingraham explained that our constitution does not specify a minimum number of council members, but does limit council to no more than 12 members. We currently have eight members, which the executive committee determined was a good number to have for this board to operate efficiently. Two other congregation members have been invited to join council, but have not made their decisions yet.

Upcoming Events

- Church Census started January 10, will continue next 2 Sundays. Project will enable us to date our parish records and also allow us to improve communication with the congregation with accurate mailing and email addresses.
- Council Install (and pictures) January 24; please attend
- February doorkeepers (Open= Judy Garnet; Close= Sandra)
- March doorkeepers (Open-= Judy Garnet; Close= Diane Kellogg)
- Devotions for February (Jim S.)
- Devotions for March (Judy)
- Next Council Meeting: February 8 (led by VP—Jim Schnellenberger)
- Council Retreat/Meeting: Saturday, March 5

Closing Comments for the Good of the Church