

**Christ Lutheran Church
Congregational Council
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2015**

Eric Moehring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heather Heckel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Schnellenberger <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Pickels
Cathleen Jacobson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerald Ransone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Glen Kellogg <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Judy Garnett
Faith Hobson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Fleming	Jim Ingraham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Absent:	Patty Franz		
Non-voting:	Paul Quel	Diane Kellogg	
New members:	Sandra Bocclair	Bill Dotson	

(12 voting members, indicates voted to approve minutes via email)

Devotions (Glen)

Approval of October Minutes: **Approved**

Financial Report (Paul), finances still are in the black, year-to-date offerings have exceeded expenses by \$23,800. The LEAD Fund was emptied in June and an \$820 check sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief. Paul asked what we should be done with the \$250.02 in the Lakeside Networking Fund. We are not sure who this money belongs to, Billy Hockman or Susan Nepomunceno may know. We will return it if requested. Another possibility would be Lamb's Basket, which is based in Lakeside. Some discussion ensued, decided to ask Susan Nepomunceno if she could provide further information. If no other owner is found, Lamb's basket seems a reasonable place to make a donation. Assuming Susan doesn't care, motion to move it to Lamb's basket. **Vote: unanimous** Jim Ingraham will contact Susan.

Pastor's Report

Follow up on list of names removed from the parish register. Will update Shepherd's staff, with birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Tina would like to census the congregation in November, December, then update the register. She could use help from council to sit at the table and take the information on Sunday mornings. They also need to update the email lists. It's possible that the email problems could be solved with constant contact, or mail chimp, or some other email program.

Church security: There have been incidents where aggressive people have come into the church asking for money, so the decision has been made to keep the front door locked, and possibly install a door bell, with a camera. A quick search shows camera doorbells for

~\$200. Motion made that we approve up to \$250, second. **Vote: unanimous.** Another administrative issue is the lack of caller id on the office phones. Pastor and Tina will start to look into what the needs are and what we might need in the future.

President's report:

LaToya Obassi, due to family health problems, will no longer be able to serve as nursery attendant. A nursery attendant is an important position, and it is in the 2016 budget, Jim proposes we search for a new attendant. Question were asked about some of the youth in the church serving. LaToya had childcare certification, as well as background check completed. We could hire a youth member, as long as they had the qualifications. In the interim, we could use member volunteers, and contact Lourdes, and other Lakeside churches that have daycare facilities. Hatcher, Lakeside Presbyterian, etc also have daycares and could possibly supply us with some leads for a nursery worker.

Council approved lighting project in September, and gave Richard Tripp direction to proceed. Finance committee has questions about the proposition, both with the technical and financing side of the lights. Project delayed until questions are answered. There is a 60 month lease that would cost the church \$5,000(estimated from the projected savings)/year. Theoretically this would be compensated by savings on the monthly electric bill, but there is doubt as to how realistic this estimate is. The lease would have to be approved and signed by a church officer. Interest was ~5.x%. Council opted, by vote, not to purchase the equipment outright, but instead to pursue a payment plan. Total cost of the project is ~\$32,000. Currently, Dominion offers a rebate of ~\$12,000 (even if self-installed), leaving ~\$20,000 left, to be paid over 5 years. Questions that came up were: would our actual electric utility savings actually be what was estimated, and would we be guaranteed the \$12,000 rebate from Dominion. Dominion determines that number, but have made no guarantees. There are technical issues as well. Several congregation members are participating in the discussions. Paul Quel wants to be sure that council understands, is that when we finally answer all the questions, we might come up with a different proposal that might be radically different than what council voted for in September. Any issues of financing would be brought back to council for a vote. Paul Quel talked with Atlantic Electric who provided bids on the lights in the parking lot (different than what the first vendor would provide), as well as per bulb prices on T8s and LEDs, it was a less comprehensive analysis than the first vendor provided.

Some concerns raised were that only one vendor was contacted (and should we contact more vendors), and whether or not the estimated savings would actually be the amount estimated by the vendor. The original vendor was not asked about this possibility, although there were quite a few questions back and forth. Some things have changed. For instance, we have since discovered that regular T8 bulbs won't be obsolete, as we originally thought. Other questions raised: Who would gather these bids if it was decided that more than one

vendor should be contacted for a quotation? Could we talk to other church customers of the original vendor, as an option for helping vet this vendor? Jim Schnellenberger would be willing to contact references for the original vendor that could vouch for their work, in lieu of getting two bids. **Motion** that we first check the references of this vendor (Jim Schnellenberger will make the contacts); if good, we will proceed with the original plan. In December council will vote to approve the 60-month lease, and then to approve the specific additional monthly lease expense in the 2016 budget. Motion seconded. **Vote:** 8 votes in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstain. Motion carries. **Motion** that future projects that exceed \$3000 must have 3 bids. Discussion: what if you don't get 3? Go with what you have? A/C units, computers, etc may fall under this. \$3,000 might be an arbitrary number, amend motion to \$10,000.00. Further amendment is to include in the discussion should be members of the finance and whatever applicable committee is involved. **Motion** to approve amendment **vote:** unanimous. Amended motion **vote: unanimous**

Council Ministry Reports

- Property—lighting issues discussed
- Stewardship—Faith Hobson reports that commitment cards were passed out and mailed, 50% response, 65% of projected budget has been met. (At this time last year was well under 50% of the projected budget.) Follow up work will contact those who haven't responded.
- Evangelism—Gerald, Stan Carey is working on attending a Christmas show at Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center. Village Nights, the seminarian has been attending. We have a German visitor. Sunday, we had a visitor, whose father was in ill health. Ferrell has been thanked for his work with the youth. Thanked Richard Tripp for all of the work that he does for our church. Richard and Susan have put a huge amount of their time and talents into refinishing the basement room. It's hard to get help, since Richard keeps irregular hours when he comes in to work. Possibly he could delegate some specific projects (like painting) to willing volunteers. Richard also cleans the church. Derek Myers is had successful surgery and is recovering well. We were happy to see Laurie Bost. Someone did a very nice brochure for the church (Jim and Jim).
- Youth/Family Ministries—Pastor Eric is working on this
- Christian Education/Faith Formation—Christmas pageant, would like for council to provide the food. Person would coordinate bringing in food (food for the kids beforehand) fruit trays, cheese trays, in the commons. Council would bring in food, then ask other congregation members.
- Collective/Property

- Liaisons (YMCA, Apostolic Church, Moody MS)—no report. **Discussion:** Would like clarification about what we agreed to with the Apostolic church. What days/rooms/times, etc. Originally thought they would use the fellowship hall, a classroom, and the kitchen. Lately the sanctuary has not been available on certain Saturday afternoons. There have been weddings that were a surprise to those who work in the church on Saturday (music rehearsal, altar guild, property maintenance). We need to have better communication with a few people (Judy Garnett for altar duty, Linda Keener for music, Richard Tripp for property, and Paul Quel for HVAC issues) if there are going to be scheduling conflicts. Discussions with Tina with regards to the calendar might be beneficial. **Decision:** Jim Ingraham will give Pastor David the 4 main contacts, and we will look into making sure that the calendar is kept up to date with all the information.
- Audit—Audit is in progress, the meetings are over
- Finance
- IT & Communications—wireless access point. Jeremy Ott thinks a new technology will work. Start with one (for ~\$230), and see if they work. They will have a decision by next month for a specific amount.
- Vision—Jim Schnellenberger; putting together some vision discussions and presentations to start in December; intent is to talk about renewal, there are things we need to do, talk about welcoming, would like more members on the committee related to renewal.
- Worship—12/27 will be one service at 9:30 am. 2 services on 1/3/16. Needs council approval.

Old Business

- Lighting project update—discussed
- Jim Pickels; motion to propose restoring the second 1/3 of the 2015 salary and benevolence reductions. We would prefer to defer discussions to next month. The total amount would be ~\$5,500 total. Motion seconded. Discussion: what are we basing this on? The surplus funds that we have. But how many people have we lost? Is that pertinent to this discussion? It should be based on what our budget and the amount in excess. There was a provision when the budget was approved that we would revisit these salary cuts, and restore them as funds were available. Shouldn't we wait until the end of the year, when we are sure of our excess amount? Are we making decisions based on assumptions? We do have a sizeable reserve fund, and the \$5,000 is

not a big fraction of that? Will it be a bonus or a salary adjustment? Whatever is correct according to taxes rules. **Vote:** 2 no, 1 abstain, 7 votes in favor. **Motion carries.**

New Business

- Church Census—discussed in Pastor’s report
- Revised Conflict Resolution Process—Patty Franz is working on this
- Annual Reports—Any program ministry, please submit an annual report. These need to be submitted in January, prior to the annual congregational meeting
- Annual Meeting--on 1/24/2016. Council needs to approve meeting. Motion to propose 1/24/2016, seconded. Discussion: what time? 10:00 am. With food at 9:45. **Vote:** unanimous

Upcoming Events

- December Doorkeepers (we need openers Judy Garnett and closers Jim Schnellenberger/Shannon Fleming)
- Devotions for December (Pastor)
- Next Council Meeting: December 14; bring cookies.

Closing Comments for the Good of the Church