

Council Minutes  
February 14, 2022

Attendance: Darren Doerhmann, Paul Darlage, Stephanie Estel, Donna Granderson, Pastor Cook, Beverly Silletto, Jim Snyder, Dave Walls, Sarah Frederickson, Wes Wrucke, Mitchell Burmeister, Matt Hesse, Chip Davidson, Shelby Schwartz, Bruce Yungman (guest)

1. Opening Devotion - Pastor Cook
  - a. 1 John chapter 4 verse 7-21, instructs us on love.
  - b. Today is Valentine's Day, it's appropriate to think about what love is, as it's not what Hollywood often makes it to be. In the reading, God reminds us that love begins in God, and His sacrifice for us. If we love one another, God abides in us and is perfected in us. If we refuse to love, we must not have God.
  - c. Valentine's Day is about the love God has for us; Saint Valentine was an early martyr in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, and wouldn't give up his friends even through torture, and that's love.
  - d. When the world sees genuine love, like in the case of Valentine, it opens their eyes to the author and perfecter of love, Jesus. His prayer for the church is that we would have the opportunity to show forth the love of Christ in the way that we love one another, even our enemies.
2. Bruce Yungman – Personal donation made through the church
  - a. Summary
    - i. A member's intent is to increase the budget of a committee, by personally providing the church with a sum of money to use towards a specific organization/cause. While Issues, Etc. is the organization at hand today, the intention is to discuss this specific donation and set a precedent for future donations of this intent.
    - ii. Issues, Etc. motion carried unanimously, to spend \$1,000 to Issues, Etc. to become a church sponsor. The benefits are below, and this will be funded through a private donor.
  - b. Issues, Etc. organization, Lutheran public radio mission (Bruce)
    - i. If a church donates \$1,000 it will be a sponsor church and is published on their website (in KY, there are 2 LCMS churches on the website, ours and one in Lexington) and journal, and about twice a month – there's a 30 second ad that runs (been running for 2 years).
    - ii. Bruce pays \$1,000 to the church, then the church writes a check for \$1,000 to become a sponsor church. The intent is so that the church can do something for outreach. 2 years ago, evangelism only had \$2,200 a year allocated. So Bruce wanted to independently assist in steering to mission work with this,
    - iii. Issues, Etc. has over 6 million downloads to their podcast, they are consistently ranked in the top podcast for religion and spirituality, they have listeners in about 125 countries, 44,000 app subscribers, 27,000

journal subscribers, and program run by LCMS pastor (approximately year old data).

- iv. This is not Bruce coming in and directing where budgeted money should go, that is the church council's objective.
  - v. Bruce's ask, as we have a low budget for evangelism, it would be beneficial to encourage members to donate personally to missions, especially if the church gets credit for it.
- c. Concerns
- i. Prior comments on this are the optics of an individual wanting to give money, through the church to another entity. The concern Jim was made aware of is that an individual should be able to donate to missions on their own, rather than giving through the church and directing the church where the money should go. This process needs to be managed properly so we don't get to a point where people are dictating where they want money to go to specific causes. If you want to donate through the church, we should make sure that the organization is endorsed by the church council.
- d. Discussion (All)
- i. When this situation occurs (a member wanting to directly donate funds), it should be the process to go through the appropriate chairperson, who then brings it to the council. If that doesn't go anywhere then the member comes to the council and explain what the situation is, why they want to do it, and what benefits the church gets.
  - ii. We don't want to set a precedent of private members designating funds outside of the council. Emphasis is just that it needs to come through the right channel.
  - iii. An extra cost center would cause additional work for the treasurer
    - 1. This should be a two-step process: bring to council, if agreed upon. Then decide on the next step: immediate action or take into budgeting consideration for the next fiscal year.
    - 2. This is the decision to make now, is it an immediate action item or a budget item to make for the next year.
  - iv. Two questions to answer:
    - 1. Is it something the church supports
    - 2. Is it funded?
- e. Matt Hesse moves to spend \$1k to Issues, Etc. to become a church sponsor
- i. Second by Bev Silletto
  - ii. Discussion
    - 1. This is to be funded through a private donor
    - 2. We've been told the benefits (above)
    - 3. This has already paid for calendar year 2022, now would be a good time to work into the budget for next year
    - 4. We are covered for fiscal year 2022; this will be in fiscal year 2023 budget that we'd approve in June

5. If included in the budget, then it is a budget priority, and a member can privately fund it. Council can say that we set this priority.
  - iii. Jim Snyder called for the question
    1. Motion carried unanimously
3. Financial Update - Darren Doehrmann
  - a. For the month of January, we had a **deficit of \$7,136**. Total giving was \$48,311 which was **\$15,948 less than budgeted**. The **giving income needed each month would be \$60,833** if divided equally throughout the year (budget uses a pro-rated figure).
  - b. School revenue was \$12,050 more than budgeted. School revenue includes some COVID Childcare Grant money. Expenses were \$4,350 more than budgeted.
  - c. Giving for this fiscal year is \$12,424 below budget. This money was budgeted to be a slightly positive month by \$1,133. For this fiscal year, we have a surplus of \$39,578. Cumulative, we have a **\$9,083 surplus**.
4. Pastor's Computer - Darren Doehrmann
  - a. Since being with the church, Pastor has used his own laptop – that's now on the last leg. This is not a budgeted item on the church side (school does have a technology fund). Estimated expense is about \$1k - \$1.2k for a reliable work laptop, assuming an educational discount.
  - b. Matt Hesse motioned to take \$1,200 out of buildings and grounds for a laptop
    - i. Seconded by Bev Silletto
    - ii. Estimates are very preliminary, but discounts/arrangements are being considered. There is an education discount with Best Buy and tax-free status there.
    - iii. Pastor teaches confirmation, could roll over to pull from that the school budget if needed, but doesn't solve the issue if someone else on the church side needs something technical.
    - iv. Chip is the chairperson for the Worship, Music and "Technology" committee. Is the committee currently in a position to be able to fund this?
    - v. Motion withdrawn as this subject is under Worship, Music and Technology committee
  - c. Budget for Worship, Music and Technology committee to be checked; no vote needed if within budget, and below spending threshold.
5. Maintenance Update - Matt Hesse
  - a. Workday Saturday, 2/19
  - b. Water heater, trying to get other quotes. To be dropped down in size to two-fifths of the size – don't need as much and to save money.
  - c. No updates on geothermal
6. Lenten Meals - Dave Walls
  - a. Previously Ash Wednesday is a Fish Fry, but generally not in favor.

- b. Reviewing the number of people attending: during 2020 didn't have meals due to COVID; one Lenten meal for the last Wednesday of Lent last year; Advent meals this year, started with 60 and ended with 35 at the last.
  - i. Issue is not enough people come and can't get enough people to staff.
  - ii. These meals are good to bring people in the church together, but maybe there's a better way. Looking at ideas of how to make it better. Maybe dessert Lenten meal, potlucks, etc?
- c. Discussion (All)
  - i. Don't like the idea of desserts because people give up desserts for lent. Keep it simple. Soup and sandwiches for each meal.
  - ii. Volunteers/Staffing doesn't always have to be a board, could be a group/organization within the church, like the youth or bible study
    - 1. We need volunteers to set up the room, replenish and monitor items, and clean up
  - iii. Youth Group to do set up and clean up. Sarah will request.
  - iv. Every board takes a Wednesday, to do soup and sandwiches:
    - 1. 3/2 Ash Wednesday - Elders
    - 2. 3/9 - Christian relations
    - 3. 3/16 - Parish Education & Evangelism
    - 4. 3/23 - School board & Building and Grounds
    - 5. 3/30 - Young Family Small Group
    - 6. 4/6 - Bring Your Own Meal and meet at the church
- 7. Consumable Food Service Materials - Donna Granderson
  - a. Thank you to Deb and Sue Wolter for cleaning out all the pantry shelves and organizing and counting all the disposable paper products!!
  - b. ASK – when you use these products, the extras are put back in the spot where they were taken so it can remain organized.
  - c. We are working out a system/list to know how/who to reorder when needed.
- 8. Photo Directory - Chip Davidson
  - a. Members of the church have been looking at virus/infection rates to make sure they are down before we start the photo directory process.
  - b. Suggested to start taking pictures in late March/beginning of April, think we should be in the clear by then.
- 9. The Lord's Prayer - Pastor Cook
- 10. Adjourned at 7:31pm