

**Minutes of Congregation Council Meeting**  
**October 17, 2023**  
**7:00pm**

- I. Call to Order 7:00p
  - A. Attendance: Mike Berkheimer, Dean Black, Bob Bolen, Faye Casciano, Mike Epperly, Kristin Ervin, Hayden Fermier, Amy Grubb, Nina McNally, Pastor Mark Wimmer, Pastor Cindy Camp, Pastor Tami Reichley
  - B. Excused: Sue Mathieu, Denise Rohrbach, Mark Stanziola, John Osenbach
  - C. Devotions – Dean Black
  
- II.
  - A. 2024 Technology Budget: John Letts spoke at the meeting to provide Council with an update on the church’s technology needs.
  - B. Adoption of previous month’s Meeting Minutes. **Motion:** To approve minutes from the September 19, 2023 monthly council meeting by Mike Epperly with a **second** by Amy Grubb. **APPROVED.**
  - C. Council unanimously accepts with regret Mark Stanziola’s resignation from Church Council, effective immediately.
  
- III. Staff Reports: no action items.
  
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Call Process Update by Amy Grubb: the process continues
  - B. Operations Manager Position: Mike Berkheimer sent out a proposal for the position. There was a discussion about the position as part-time versus full-time. Additionally, it was noted that the position as proposed does not help with Sunday production needs. The position will be posted.
  - C. Music Ministry Search Team Update by Mike Berkheimer: Megan McCormack has agreed to lead the search team. She has a team formed and is in the process of scheduling their first meeting.
  - D. Nominating Committee: we will have four vacancies on Council in 2024 as three Council members – Mark Stanziola, Nina McNally, and Amy Grubb - plus our youth representative will have reached the end of their terms.
  - E. Artwork Update by Mike Berkheimer: Mark Stanziola, Jeff Gross, and committee are still working on their recommendations
  - F. Storage Space – we do not yet have an end-stage diagram
  
- V. Mission Team Reports
  - A. Stewardship: Estimate of Giving cards were distributed and are coming back in.

- B. Mission Team Fair (October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023): while lightly attended, people were engaged and signed up to join various mission teams
- C. Faith Formation for Youth ELCA National Youth Gathering Update: Kristin Ervin: The enrollment cost for each attendee of the National Youth Gathering is \$375. We are requesting that each attendee pay the \$375 registration fee. In examining the finances and speaking with Amber O'Brien, Mike Berkheimer, and Bob Mueller, we are confident that the remainder of the National Youth Gathering costs will be covered by funds already saved due to the cancellation of the 2021 National Youth Gathering plus any fundraising money raised ahead of the Gathering. Any money remaining in the account will pass forward to the 2027 National Youth Gathering costs.
- D. Finance 2024 budget requests – update: Mike Epperly: September 2023
  1. Operating Income in September was \$ 67,069 being \$ 17.4 K higher than September \$49,648 Budget with operating pledged income being \$ 10.7 K higher than its September Budget, with operating unpledged income being \$ 1.4 K higher than its September Budget, while combined loose plate and non - member contributions were \$ 0.5 K higher than combined September Budget.
  2. Operating Income YTD stands at \$ 674,429 which is \$ 48.3 K higher than YTD Budget \$ 626,104. Variance of \$ 48 .3 K reflects combined impact of operating pledged income YTD being \$ 4.3 K higher, operating unpledged YTD being \$ 25.7 K higher, combined loose plate and non - member contributions YTD \$ 6.1 K higher, All Specials YTD \$ 3.2 K higher, Thrivent Income YTD being \$ 0.7 K higher, and Interest YTD being \$ 2.8 K higher.
  3. Operating Expenses in September were \$ 66,837 being \$ 1,8 K higher than September \$ 65,021 Budget. Operating Expenses YTD in September were \$ 623,336 being \$ 16.6 K lower than September \$ 639,897 YTD Budget. Most Mission areas in September were close or under September Budget. In September Resources for Ministry higher than September Budget \$ 1.2 K mainly due to Building Maintenance (\$ 4.9 K higher due to Stanley Steamer carpet cleaning and HVAC unit replacement in a Lower-level classroom) offset by lower Service Contracts expense. (\$ 2,5 K lower even after Sexton 2-week vacation amount coverage) In September Resources for Ministry YTD \$ 12.7 K lower than YTD Budget thru September mainly due to lower Professional Services and Service Contracts offset by higher building Maintenance expense. No Accruals in September.
  4. Net Income in September was \$ 232 which is \$ 15.6 K higher than expected September Budget Net Income deficit of \$ 15,373 bringing YTD Net Income to \$51,093 which is \$ 64.9 K higher than YTD Net Income Budget deficit of \$ 13,793.
  5. Operating Cash Balance increased from \$ 121,439 on 08 / 31 / 23 to \$ 121,671 on 09/30/23.
  6. SPIRIT LED / SPIRIT ALIVE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Account cash balance is \$ 10,949. (September donations \$ 841) September expense was mortgage payment on Mission Investment Fund Building Project loan (\$ 2,188). NOTE: September was the second of last five months of 2023 where monthly mortgage payment disbursed from Spirit Led / Spirit Alive account as per Congregational Council resolution.

7. BUILDING PROJECT LOAN Balance on Mission Investment Fund Building Project loan at end of September is \$ 401,192.
8. BUILDING FUND September month end balance was \$ 9,749. (Donations \$ 851) September expense was \$ 2,059 to G. C. Electric Co. Inc. for installation of new LED flat panel lights as part of Hallway Project (hallway section from canopy entrance hallway back towards double doors outside Room 117 / 119). NOTE: Hallway Project fund sources included: Non - dedicated Memorials \$675.18; portion of Edith Gliem estate \$ 5,950; and Building Fund \$2,058.82. TOTAL COST \$ 8,684.00.
9. RESOLUTION FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE Remove the following individuals from LCHS Wells Fargo Account: Bob Schuchart, Sherilyn Scheetz and Wilbur Kemp. Add these individuals to the LCHS Wells Fargo Account: Pastor Tami Reichley, Terri Hinderliter and Bob Mueller. Deb Stevens should remain on the LCHS Wells Fargo Account. Request Congregational Council approval of this Resolution as written above. Moved by Mike Epperly, Seconded by Pr. Cindy **APPROVED**
10. DISCUSSION ITEM Congregational Council directs that a 2023 CHRISTMAS TITHE letter be sent to LCHS members after November 19,2023 as adopted in LCHS 2023 Annual Revenue Budget.
11. ENDOWMENT FUND: the Fund provided \$6,000 for Cat Camp expenses in the 2023 Annual Budget. The actual 2023 expense request from the Endowment Fund was \$2,470. Each student contributed \$100 towards their Cat Camp expenses.
- E. Property: Mike Epperly: Roof leaks at LCHS are an ongoing problem. Most recently, water stains in ceiling tiles appeared in the Altar Guild/Sacristy area. There also are some water stains in the main stair/hallway adjacent to Nave. Both areas were inspected and repaired by RAM Siding Company. Hopefully these areas are now okay.

#### VI. New Business

- A. Strategic Planning: Council Members: Please complete the assessment within the week.
- B. Annual Meeting proposed for Sunday, February 4, 2024 – this is not Superbowl Sunday
- C. Council Retreat with staff attending the morning proposed for Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 9am-4pm

VII. Next Meeting – November 14, 2023, 7:00pm.

VIII. Assignment of Devotions to Mike Epperly

IX. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 with prayer by Pr. Wimmer