

Cross of Christ Church Council

Minutes of March 16, 2021 Meeting

Officers	P	A	Pastors	P	A	Cabinets	P	A	Cabinets	P	A
Eileen Hegland (President)	X		Linda McPeak	X		Amy Kulas (Finance)	X		Krin Abraham (Personnel)		X
Jill Hahn (Vice President)	X					Jessica Brand (Youth & Family)	X		Kathy Olson (Worship & Music)	X	
Paige Markegard (Secretary)	X					Keith Herek (C of C Building)		X	Alysia Woodard (Education)		X
Patrick Forsyth (Fin Admin)	X					Vacant (Stone Church Bldg)		X	Ellen Hongerholt (Stewardship)	X	
Amanda Langheinrich (Financial Sec)		X				Trent Edwards (C of C Grounds)		X	Sue Ferris (W/ELCA)	X	
						Holly Westby (Evangelism)	X		Vacant (Youth Rep)		

President Eileen Hegland called the Zoom video conference meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Pr. Linda's devotion about the reading for this Sunday. From the beginning things can be small and look their worst, but they can grow to bring much fruit. This scenario can be compared to our online worship at the start of the pandemic. What started as a scary unknown has grown into a very fruitful way of sharing our worship services and Sunday School activities. What types of seeds can we plant to bare fruit and share with others?

1. REPORTS:

a. Senior Pastor's Report for February 16, 2021 – March 16, 2021

i. Membership Activity:

1. Funerals/Memorial Services:

- Karsten Kinstler, February 18, 2021
- Donnie Carlson, February 19, 2021 (graveside service)

2. Baptism:

- Blair Odessa Lorenz, March 7, 2021, parents Haley Moore and Dawson Lorenz, sponsors: Madeline Moore and Brady Happel

ii. Pastoral Acts (these are not all-inclusive, but intended to give the council a good deal of guidance):

- Visitations, shared word and sacrament have ceased due to Covid-19 health and safety precautions.
- Online and phone Pastoral Care - Ongoing exchanges with youth, individuals and families who desire to be in conversation about how God is at work in their lives through health, healing, grief, faith questions, doubts, challenges and formation.
- Weekly staff meeting with Office Admin, Children's Ministry Director and Custodians.
- Worship & Music
 - Ash Wednesday and Lenten Midweek Worship began February 17 @ 7pm
 - Holden Evening Prayer Service – song leaders, Ann Abraham, Paige Markegard, Jenelle Lemke, William Carlson, Susan Ferries, Stacy Botcher and Shelly Jerviss. Club 56 has accompanied with chimes.
 - Drive thru communion Sunday, February 21 and March 7.
 - Installation of Council members Sunday, February 28.
- Online Zoom Coffee Hour fellowship Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. Will continue at this time.

6. Confirmation in-person and via Zoom - F.
 - a. Holy Communion class for 5th and 6th graders on March 7 and March 14. With 15 students celebrating their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1 @ 7 pm.
 7. Maundy Thursday in person worship is reserved only for those youth and families celebrating their first communion. All other worshipers are asked to join us online for the live broadcast. Thank you for reserving the sanctuary space for first communion families.
 8. Palm Sunday worship @ 10:15 am with Palm Sunday procession beginning in the Fellowship Hall at 10 am
 9. Good Friday worship @ 12:30 pm at Cross of Christ
 10. Easter Saturday April 3 @ 9:00 am church decorating
 11. Easter Sunday with Holy Communion – Sunrise Service @ 7 am and 10:15 am. No Easter Breakfast due to Covid19 restrictions.
 12. Easter Flower Form due Wednesday, March 31 and flowers/plants to the church by noon, Friday April 2.
 13. Cabin Fever Event for children, youth and families Sunday, February 7, 2-4 pm. Nine children and youth attended with 4 adults. Activities included: Wheel of Gratitude, Bible Jeopardy, Parable Workbook, Valentine Card art, Sand Art, Bulletin Board making, and board games.
 14. Snow Fun Day, Sunday, January 31 @ 1pm. 7 children and youth from 3 families participated by making several snow people creations outside of Valley View Healthcare and Rehab and Heritage Court. Thank you to everyone who participated.
 15. Monthly Church time, the first and third Tuesday at 10 at Heritage Court via Zoom gathering.
 16. Began gathering weekly at VVHCR Wednesdays at 10 am for in-person worship/church time.
 17. Resumed some community requested building use needs; HHS Knowledge Bowl and 4H. Upcoming Valley View Healthcare and Rehab and Heritage Court Annual Meeting Saturday, February 27 @ 9 am.
 18. New Internet based phone system is up and functioning. Four new phones installed for kitchen, church office, Pastor and Children's Ministry.
- b. Participation in the ministry of our larger Church and Community:
- i. World Day of Prayer Friday, March 5 – service provided online for community participation

Respectfully submitted by Pastor, Linda McPeak

Pr. Linda wanted to start out by thanking all the individuals who have been song leaders for the Wednesday night Lenten services. She also wanted to thank the Club 56 members for participating last week. Pr. Linda also wanted to highlight that on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, 1st Communion for the 5th and 6th graders will take place. The in-person worship will be held for the families of the children. Pr. Linda will share this information with the congregation. She also wanted to mention that we collected \$212.97 at the last noisy offering for the relief in Texas.

- c. **President's Report:**
 - i. Eileen didn't have a report to share.
- d. **Secretary's Report:**
 - i. *Jill Hahn made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021 meeting. Pr. Linda seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.*
- e. **Financial Administrator's Report:**
 - i. February Results:

1. February ended with a deficit of (\$1,457) vs. a budgeted surplus of \$46. The shortfall was due to lower envelopes, offset by higher Thrivent Choice dollars. E-deposits were on budget. Expenses were also on budget. For the year, we are about \$2,500 below budget on net income. Again, lower envelope revenue is the driver. Other income is at or above budget, and expenses are below budget.
- ii. *Jess Brand made a motion to approve the February financial administrators report. Amy Kulas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

f. Financial Secretary's Report:

- i. Amanda Absent. Financial report is included in council packet.

2. CABINET REPORTS:

a. Education:

- i. Alysia absent. No report.

b. Evangelism:

- i. Holly did not have anything to report.

c. Finance:

- i. Amy had nothing to report.

d. Personnel:

- i. Krin absent. No report

e. C of C Grounds:

- i. Trent absent. No report.

f. C of C Building:

- i. Keith absent. Report below:

I met with Mary Jore to go over some projects she'd like done in the Sunday School area:

1. The upstairs bathroom sink doesn't work. It looks like the battery is dead and I ordered a new one.
2. Install carpet at the bottom of the back stairs. We have extra carpet squares we can use from when Mary's office was carpeted.
3. Remove one of the shelves in the craft room and replace it with a dowel to hang reels of ribbon.
4. Find a way to store some of the set pieces in the stage room. Mary'd like something hanging from the ceiling.
5. Build a small stage for the kids to perform on in the stage room.
6. Build a mobile cabinet from the drawers taken from Amanda's office.

Now that the snow is gone, we'll have to get a contractor in to look at what can be done to fix some of our cracked concrete issues.

I scheduled a short meeting with the Property Cabinet on 3/21 after Church service to discuss how we want to repair/replace the carpet in front of the kitchen.

Submitted,
Keith Herek

g. Stone Church:

- i. Position Vacant

h. Stewardship & Missions:

- i. Ellen absent. No report.

i. Worship & Music:

- i. Kathy's report is below:

Minutes from Feb 25, 2021 Zoom meeting with all members in attendance.

Ushers, greeters and Readers volunteers. Scheduling going well. Tom McPeak built plexiglass barriers and are secured in front of lecterns.
Special Music.

1. Shelly Jerviss has offered to be the contact for any member that would like to perform special music for worship services. Gayle will help accompany if needed; recordings can be done outside of a regular service and added later. Families or individuals welcome.
2. There is a moveable plexiglass barrier that can be used.
3. Pr. Linda/Amanda will post a little write up in the monthly newsletter for those interested in sharing their musical gifts.
4. Sim Sound recommended that one of the choir mics be directed up to the organ pipes which helps decrease that organ sounding so loud compared to vocalists while in the balcony

Lent.

1. Wednesday night Lenten services. Using the Holden format. Congregants can checkout Holden song booklets from church office. We are unable to post online/make copies.
2. Group discussed volunteers that are willing to sing at each service.

Holy week.

1. *Maundy Thursday*. Worship service traditionally 1st communion. This year's class will be combined 5th and 6th graders due to last year's Covid-19 situation preventing gatherings; 16 families; plan to limit the service attendees to pt communion families only. Families were asked to RSVP. We are still at a 50% capacity limit in the sanctuary.
2. *Palm Sunday*. Pr. Linda will order some palm branches. The number of kids in Sunday school is increasing. Perhaps they can share a song.
3. *Good Friday*. Pastor Linda will plan something.
4. *Easter*. We will have one service. In-person/Facebook with Communion (Upon exiting service and Drive thru). No Easter breakfasts. Preparedness team will need to meet and go over plan.
 - a. Plan for members to donate plants.
 - b. Suggestion to have brass ensemble play. Need instrument masks? Vocalist? pre-record or live?

Submitted by,
Kathy Olson

j. Youth & Family:

- i. Jessica mentioned that she was hoping to do some church clean-up with the youth sometime in April in the yard. This would likely be for the older kids. She also was thinking of doing a fishing outing in May for all ages and had a few options for possible locations. She was also thinking a possible camp out in the church lawn in May. This would likely be for 5th grades and up. Another option that she was thinking of was doing a river cleanup day and maybe a hayride or bowling day with other area church youth groups. Lastly, she got some information from the La Crosse Loggers about doing a church outing day at the ball field. We can get packages of 12 tickets for \$60. She is hoping to use the youth fund to pay for the tickets. There is already budget for this. Possible dates are June 18th, 19th or 20th or July 9th, 10th and 11th. We would likely open this up to all congregation members since the price is so reasonable. The council decided that Jess can just pick 2 separate dates to go to games and spread the word to get people signed up and get it on their schedule.

k. WELCA:

- i. Susan's report is below:
WELCA is gearing up for the next Do-Days on Monday and Tuesday, May 22 and 23. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. By fall, we will have a large number of quilts to send to missions. A new carpet has been financed by WELCA and was installed in the Sunday School room across from the elevator. Classes will find the floor a comfortable place to learn and work. Enjoy!

Summited by Susan Ferries

- ii. Susan wanted to share that Karen Martin and the kitchen crew have been discussing the idea of doing a carryout only fall supper if restrictions are still the same as they are now. This could be a good way to transition back from not doing any fall supper to doing something. The kitchen and fellowship hall could be used for prep and people could pick up meals at the back of the church in the drive thru. WELCA will be having a meeting soon and they will discuss this further as far as logistics go. Jess mentioned doing pre-sale tickets so we can plan, and Kathy also mentioned that we could also do online ordering. Other churches have done similar things. Susan will reach out to other local churches that have done similar things so they can get ideas and tips on what worked for them.

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**

a. Stone Church Cabinet Vacancy:

- i. We still haven't found someone to fill this position. Eileen has been working with Ron Evenson to brainstorm ideas. Pr. Linda mentioned Allen Christiansen. Eileen will reach out to him. If council members have other ideas, please send them to Eileen.

b. Endowment Fund Updates:

- i. The available funds for each bucket are as follows for 2021:

- 1. SE MN/Local - \$1,114
- 2. Global/World – \$11,380
- 3. Youth and Family - \$6,573
- 4. Building - \$6,199

- ii. Pr. Linda made a suggestion at last month's council meeting that we give the money from our local mission bucket to the Valley View Healthcare and Rehab Foundation. They are in desperate need of a new transportation van and they were unable to hold their regular fundraiser last year and will be holding an online auction this year in conjunction with the Houston Community Foundation. This affects not only our community, but many of our congregation members as well. Pr. Linda would like us to be able to make a donation directly to the foundation instead of waiting for the auction to help pay for their new van.

- 1. *Pr. Linda made a motion to designate the available funds from the local mission bucket of \$1,114 directly to the VVHR Foundation to go towards a purchase of their new van. Ellen Hongerholt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

- iii. Lastly, Pr. Linda wanted to encourage all council members to think of ideas for ways we can designate the funds from our other buckets. We have over \$11,000 available in our world mission fund. This could make a huge difference for someone or something There aren't any set parameters for where these funds can be designated too, but just as long as it's a global mission. If people have ideas, please bring them to council for discussion. All options can be discussed.

c. Apollo Music Fest:

- i. The exec committee approved the use of the church for the Apollo concert on April 18th. They are anticipating 25 people. Susan will contact Gwen Nelson to discuss sanitizing after the church service that day.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. None.

5. **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

- a. None.

6. **Upcoming Events:**

- a. March 17, 24, 31 VVH&R worship service, Prayer group, confirmation and Club 56, Lenten services
- b. March 18, 25, April 1, 15 HC worship service
- c. March 21, April 4, 18 Holy Communion

- d.** March 22, 23 Do days
- e.** March 25 Bible briefing
- f.** March 28 Palm Sunday
- g.** March 30 – High School testing from 1-2pm
- h.** April 1 – 1st communion/Maundy Thursday
- i.** April 2 Flowers delivered to the youth room by noon
- j.** April 2 Good Friday
- k.** April 3 Decorate the Sanctuary
- l.** April 4 Easter Sunday
- m.** April 7, 14 VVH&R worship service, Prayer group, confirmation, and Club 56
- n.** April 11 4-H
- o.** April 12 VVH&R Auxiliary mgt
- p.** April 13 Executive meeting
- q.** April 18 Apollo Concert
- r.** April 20 Church council

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Markegard, Secretary

CROSS OF CHRIST CONGREGATION COUNCIL