

Minutes of December 20, 2022 Meeting

Mission Statement: “As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed, inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.”

1. Call to order – 6:05pm

President: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Council: Amen.

2. Devotions-Pastor Jeff Forbes-Time of Advent. We wander through life and wonder what is going on. Faith pulls us through the tough times.

3. Review of the Agenda

4. Reports

a. Interim Pastor’s Report

I took a sick leave for my Covid infection, quarantining for 5 days and recuperating from November 14-21. I missed service on the 20th, but I was here for the Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 23. I also missed last month’s Council meeting, but sent in my report.

Pastoral Acts: Funeral services for Bonnie Kinstler on November 28th and Junior Van Gundy on December 2nd. I did a Committal service at St. Peter’s Cemetery for the family of Sherman Cole on December 9th. There will be a Memorial service for Sherman later in the Spring.

The Stewardship Committee completed their Stewardship Program “Walk with Jesus” on Sunday, November 20th with a Celebration Potluck after the service. I was not able to be there that Sunday, but I heard everything went well. I thank the Committee for taking over the reins on this one!

Since I was not able to spend Thanksgiving with my family, I took Sunday, December 11th off and traveled to the Cities to be with them to celebrate. I thank Pastor Beth for filling in for me again!

We are presently preparing for Christmas Eve services at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. We will have a Christmas Day service at the regular time of 9:30 a.m.

In talking with the Executive Cabinet and the Synod Office, I will continue through the month of January 2023. My final day will be January 31, 2023. I retire from ministry on the first of February.

Monthly, I share devotions at Heritage Court at 10:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays with Holy Communion on the 2nd Thursday. I also offer Holy Communion at Valley View Nursing Home and Heritage later, the second Thursdays, starting at 10:00 a.m.

In other matters, I continue to make general visits as time permits, bring Home Communion to shut-ins, and those staying in nursing homes. I also attend Conference and Interim Pastor's monthly meetings.

b. President's Report

The Call Committee has invited a candidate back for a second interview on December 27th at 2 pm. This will also be a "Meet and Greet" event, where the candidate's spouse will attend. Council and staff are also invited to attend if able. A farewell party for Pastor Jeff is also in the works.

c. Secretary's Report

*Council meeting minutes from November 15, 2022

Krin Abraham made a motion to approve secretary minutes for November 15, 2022, and Jessica Brand seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

c. Financial Administrator's Report

Revenue is right on track for 2022. Expenses for the year are down. For the year a surplus \$16,000.

Wayne Runnigen made a motion to approve the financial report for November 15, 2022, and Kathy Olson seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

5. Cabinet Reports

a. Education

Sunday School presented their Christmas Program on 12/18/22. There were 25 children involved and many parent helpers. Alysia did a great job organizing and working with all the kids. Diane Larson also helped with costumes and props. Sunday School has ended for the year and will resume on January 8th.

Club 56 meets regularly on Wednesday evenings, led by Eileen. There were between 4-7 kids each night. Basketball practice is occurring at the same time, so the numbers fluctuate.

We have selected a date for Good Earth Village to come to our church and present a four-day summer program. They will be here from July

17th to the 20th. The day camp director will be emailing me the contract in the next week or two. They require a deposit of \$250, which goes to the overall cost of the program, of approximately \$2000. There is an opportunity to include the neighboring churches in this program, which we need to discuss further. Cost covers 30 people. Cost will go up depending on the number of kids attending.

I spoke with the Summer Rec Director to see if there is any flexibility in their scheduling, since some of their programs will run during this time. She said that the ball schedules were done by someone else, and practice/games were typically in the evening. Otherwise, she said she was willing to try and

work around our schedule but that there were a lot of moving parts, and she could not commit to not scheduling during this time. More details will be shared as they are available.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Erickson

b. Evangelism

I just wanted to say it's been my pleasure and honor to serve Evangelism for the past 4 years. We've had a lot of challenges over that time, with COVID and looking for leadership in our Church Pastor. I absolutely loved working with Pastor Jeff and all of you. I will continue to be a familiar face at church always. I did talk to a candidate over the phone, and we had a great visit. I look forward to a new face in my place.

Thank you all for always supporting me,
Holly Westby

c. Finance

CofC now has insurance through Scott Stensrud from Church Mutual Insurance. It covers property/liability and worker's comp. The total annual bill of \$16,096 is about \$2,900 less than the prior policy. This policy is for Cross of Christ and the Stone Church building only; they will have a separate policy for the Stone Church Cemetery Association. Scott Stensrud thinks that the premium for the cemetery policy will be about \$1,000.

Patrick spoke about people stopping by the church, requesting money for gas or food. They have also come into the Bluff Country office. It was agreed that we would have \$100.00 of Houston Bucks to hand out for those in need. Will give Karen 10-\$10.00 certificates to have available. Wayne Runnigen made a motion, and Eileen Hegland seconded to approve having Houston Bucks on hand at Cross of Christ to be given out to those in need in \$10.00 increments. Motion carries unanimously.

d. Personnel

Posting for IT is online, and we have one applicant. Krin will

talk with Pastor Jeff to set up interview.

- e. CofC Grounds
No report
- f. CofC Building
No report
- g. Stone Church/Cemetery
No report
- h. Stewardship & Mission
Going well!
- i. Worship & Music
Going good and special music will be at the Christmas Service.

Would like to set up a "Prep on Communion" meeting for the new people interested in the "Prep" for Communion. Kathy will set-up time and date with Pastor Jeff.

Communion slips were discussed. Some are left on the plate without a name. Pastor Jeff will make an announcement regarding the communion slips and what the process is. There was discussion on possibly placing communion cards on cardstock.

- j. Youth & Family
January 5th: Tailgate party before Boys Basketball game

February 6th: Tailgate party before Girls Basketball game

March: Elite 8 Bracket

Working on nominations for a President, Vice President, and a Secretary for Youth Group and will look for someone to serve on Church Council. Jessica is looking for names to run for these positions. Please let her know.

There was also discussion about changing the time of Sunday School or having children dismissed before the sermon. There was a concern that having Sunday school after service made it too long of a morning. No changes will be made at this time.

- k. W/ELCA
Rae reported on 2022 WELCA allocations.

6. Old Business

a. The Head Usher position was discussed. Eileen mentioned making a video for new ushers to watch or have usher training. Rae Evenson will make a call to figure out who is head of ushering.

b. Budget

There is a change in the Budget: We will add \$2000.00 WELCA donation to fund Good Earth Village. Sunday School expense to \$1000.00 for 2023. The personnel amount and Stone Church improvement amounts went up as well.

Housing, Pastor Retirement went up as well, salary the same, but bumped up Social Security amount. Revenue went up and Expenses went up, this will make deficit higher in 2023. Will be ahead in 2022, but with expenses we will need the surplus for 2023.

Motion to approve budget was given by Eileen Hegland and seconded by Jessica Brand, motion carried.

c. A Reminder that Annual reports need to be turned into Church Office ASAP.

d. Krin Abraham reported the Call Committee struggling to fill positions.

New Business

Open Discussion

7. Calendar –Up Coming events.....

- December 21 Quiet Prayer Time/Prayer Group/Confirmation/Club 56
- December 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services (5 & 9:00 p.m.)
- December 25 Christmas Day Worship Service
- December 26 Church Office Closed
- December 28 Prayer Group/Quiet Prayer Time
- December 28 NO Bell Choir, Confirmation or Club 56
- January 1 No Sunday School
- January 2 Church Office Closed

Benediction President: Almighty God, Father, and Son and Holy Spirit order our days and our deeds in his peace. Amen

Meeting adjourned @ 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Runningen, Secretary
Cross of Christ Congregation Council