

Cross of Christ Church Council

September 20, 2022

6 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting

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

Officers	P	A	Pastors	P	A	Cabinets	P	A	Cabinets	P	A
Larry Jerviss <i>(President)</i>	x		Jeff Forbes <i>(interim)</i>	x		Amy Kulas <i>(Finance)</i>	x		Krin Abraham <i>(Personnel)</i>	x	
Eileen Hegland <i>(Vice President)</i>	x					Jessica Brand <i>(Youth & Family)</i>	x		Kathy Olson <i>(Worship & Music)</i>	x	
Patti Runnigen <i>(Secretary)</i>	x					Keith Herek <i>(C of C Building)</i>		x	Sandy Erickson <i>(Education)</i>	x	
Patrick Forsyth <i>(Fin Admin)</i>		x				Wayne Runnigen <i>(Stone Church Bldg)</i>	x		Heather Chapel <i>(Stewardship)</i>		x
Karen Christensen <i>(Financial Sec)</i>						Rich Botcher <i>(C of C Grounds)</i>		x	Rae Evenson/Elsie Olson <i>(W/ELCA)</i>		x
						Holly Westby <i>(Evangelism)</i>	x		Vacant <i>(Youth Rep)</i>		

1. Call to order: 6:00 p.m.
 President: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 Council: Amen.
2. Devotions-Pastor Jeff Forbes-James: vs 22-27. As adults we are leaders of the church.
 We are a community of believers.
3. Review of Agenda
 Wayne has requested Pastor Jeff say a prayer at the Stone Church on Wednesday, September 21st before the mapping of the stones takes place at 10:00 a.m.
4. Reports:
 Interim Pastor’s Report:
August 23rd Report
Pastoral Acts: Committal service at Stone Church for the family of Dave Amundson on July 30th

I met with the communion preparers and servers on Wednesday, August 3rd, and went through how to set up, played a game on “What are the things we use in worship called” and took pictures of properly setting up for Communion. There had been a Worship and Music meeting the night before that I was unable to attend (Austin).

VBS was the week of August 7-11, a Sunday-Thursday. I met with Diane Larson and Sandy Erickson early in the summer to help plan VBS and choose a program. At VBS I taught the kids songs which they sang at the family program on Thursday. I think it all went very well. The kids seemed to enjoy coming to Bible School and learned some great stories of the Bible.

The Transition Team, including myself, had a congregational information meeting on Sunday, August 14th between services about the Ministry Site Profile and what was important for the members to know. Krin put together a power point presentation and members of the Team made comments. There were also some questions. I think those who attended felt a part of the process, which they really are, and were excited about the next of having Call Committee offered the following week. We have six people for the Call Committee-that is the number the Constitution calls for. Three have already been voted in by the Church Council. The other three still need to be voted on but I don't see a problem. The Transition Team is all done. The baton has been handed off now to the Call Committee and Pastor Barb Streed from the Synod Office will work with them.

We are having a Stewardship Cabinet meeting Thursday, August 25th, to go over the Time and Talent Sheet/Letter and a Fall Stewardship program.

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 am also celebrating Holy Communion at Valley View Nursing Home on the third Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. (unless they call me to tell me that I shouldn't because of COVID or other outbreaks of illness).

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

September 20th Report

Pastoral Acts: Funeral service at Stone Church for Larry Trulson on September 6th.

I Baptized my grandson Adom Okyere Dakwa-Agyekum, at my daughter and son-in-law's place in Minneapolis on Saturday, September 17th. Since I am a Pastor at Cross of Christ he is a member here also. I have transferred my membership to Cross of Christ which is common for Interim Pastor's to do.

I met with the Stewardship Cabinet on August 25th to present a Stewardship program called, “Walk with Jesus” that I have used before to some success in other churches. It was approved and will be presented in November around Thanksgiving. We also approved the Time and Talent Sheet and the accompanying letter to be mailed out as soon as possible.

I was involved in the process to hire a new Christian Education Director for the church and worked with Krin Abraham from the Personnel Cabinet and Sandy

Erickson from Education. I have also been putting together a list of Confirmation students for this year and picking out a program for the (year 1 of 2) which is based on the Bible. Year two is based on the Small Catechism/Lutheran Tradition in a two-year cycle.

Church Council elected the Call Committee last month to help in the calling of a Pastor for Cross of Christ and meet with the Bishop's Assistant Pastor Barb Streed who works with "Churches in Transition". The members of the Committee are(alphabetically): Sandy Erickson, Sue Ferries, Brad Hongerholt, Larry Jerviss, Vicki McKay, and Jerry Stempinski. They will be meeting with Pastor Barb this Thursday, September 22nd @ 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall to begin the process.

I have been meeting with Cabinets separately.

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a. President's Report

No report.

b. Secretary's Report

Krin Abraham made a motion to approve the secretary's report for July 19, 2022, and Jessica Brand seconded the motion to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Financial Administrator's Report

July Report: We had a surplus of \$4,681 in June vs. a budgeted deficit of (\$461). Giving was \$2,229 above budget for the month; part of this difference was a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an IRA. Expenses were \$3,110 below budget. Lower payroll expenses made up most of this difference.

For the year, we have a surplus of \$6,111 vs. a budgeted deficit of (\$7,026). Giving is \$6,505 below budget for the year, but expenses are \$20,944 below budget. Lower personnel costs continue to make up most of the difference in expenses. Repairs and maintenance expenses are also below budget for the year.

August Report: Attached are financials for August 2022.

We had a surplus of \$671 vs. a budgeted deficit of (\$1,225). Giving and other revenue was \$1,591 below budget, but expenses were \$3,487 below budget. Lower personnel expenses are the reason that expenses were below budget.

For the year, we have a surplus of \$6,782. This is \$15,033 ahead of budget. Expenses are running \$24,431 below budget for the year through the end of

August. Much of this is due to lower payroll expenses. Giving and other income is running \$9,398 below budget through the end of August.

Eileen Hegland made a motion to approve the financial report for July and August, and Kathy Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Cabinet Reports

- a. Education-Sandy Erickson reported that Vacation Bible School had a great turnout. We averaged about 25 kids each evening. We had a terrific group of volunteers as well. Each night we had a light supper and then broke into different age groups. Overall, it was a success. Diane and Jason Larson spent many hours working on the program, creating the sets and the overall flow of the evening. Lisa Skifton also put a considerable amount of time prepping the crafts each evening. Pastor Jeff will be sending thank you cards to Lisa, Jason, and Diane.

Alysia Woodard is now the new Director of Christian Education. She was one of two candidates; with the second one declining an interview. Sunday School started yesterday, with ten children in attendance. We are plan doing some mailers and Facebook posts in the next few weeks to spread the word. As always, we can always use volunteers. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please let Karen know. Sandy mentioned that Alysia, Sunday School Director inquired about having a “Trunk and Treat” in town. Church Council is okay with this and will take \$100.00 out of the budget to buy the candy for the event.

- b. Evangelism-Holly Westby reported HWY Clean-up is done for the Fall. Will ask Confirmation class to help with Spring Clean-up.
- c. Finance-The Finance Cabinet makes a recommendation to the Cross of Christ Church Council that unused funds from the Stone Church Endowment be carried over to the following year. This would be consistent with how the Cross of Christ Endowment fund has been managed.
The Stone Church Endowment was started in 2015. The investment policy allows 4% of the year-end balance to be spent in the following year on Stone Church expenses. The annual available amount has not been spent every year. The Stone Church Committee now has a proposed *unbudgeted* improvement project. Funds would be available for the project if prior years' unspent funds were considered. The Finance Cabinet recommends tracking unused funds since the Stone Church Endowment account's inception and that the unspent funds be available for budgeted and/or council-approved projects for the Stone Church.
Amy Kulas mentioned that Farmers Insurance will be discontinuing the insurance with effective 4th Quarter.

- d. Personnel- The Director of Christian Ministries job has been posted on Facebook and included in the Parish Visitor. The position filled by Alysia Woodard.
- e. C of C Grounds- Rich Botcher is wondering if we can ask Adam Olson to do the snow plowing again for us this year?
They have found someone to remove 4 stumps left from tree removal. Cost will be \$325.00 which includes clean up.
- f. C of C Building-No Report
- g. Stone Church/Cemetery Board-Wayne Runningen reported Randy Bearbower painted the steeple and caulked @ an approximate cost of \$4500.00
Josh Bedard will put in sidewalk. Patty VanGundy highly recommended him for the job. The cost will \$18,500.00 which includes south end of kitchen to basement door and wrap around to front of church and will also include the landscaping. The sidewalk will be 48" wide and 4" deep.
The berm on the northside of the church that was fixed last October seems to be working.
We are looking on getting an estimate to fix ceiling in church. Cost too high.
Cemetery Board-Mapping cemetery. Krin Abraham mentioned they have a good process going, but many challenges. Wayne mentioned keeping maps at the Stone Church. Church Council agreed.
- h. Stewardship & Mission- A cabinet meeting was held on August 25 at 7:00 PM.
The cabinet had a meeting. We had some exciting news with this cabinet. Tyler Marshall has joined our cabinet
He comes with some financial background which will bring new ideas to the cabinet. Also planning to do a program closer to Thanksgiving called Walk with Jesus to show different ways to donate to the church.
- i. Worship & Music- A cabinet meeting was held on September 14 at 5:30 p.m. Our group met Wed Sept 14th. Discussion topics included: Cancellation of Sept 17th Music Open house- conflict with 2 members on that day. Also, wanted to have Time/Talent information back to send out invites to those interested... no Time/Talent info yet.
Discussed plan for Sept 25th Contemporary music service.
Start-up Choir on Oct 16th. Jake directing. Practice @ 8:30a.m. prior to service. Put an invite out to any interested members to check it out!
Bells with Eileen! Eileen will be directing Bell Choir this year. She will determine the first Wednesday night practice and email out information.
Jake Olson will plan a time to run out to Stone Church with Pastor Jeff to winterize the organ out there.
Discussed pitted brass on Candle holders and Candelabras. No action now but in future these items may need to be replaced.

Jenelle wondered if gospel readers could perhaps read the Psalm response with the congregation for on-line worshippers to hear it.

Going back to 3 communion volunteers per Sunday. Karen is scheduling these people.

Kathy will touch base with Karen to see how things are going. There are some volunteers that only either prep or serve- Karen may or may not be aware.

Organists were asked to fill in some light background music during communion distribution. This is a time of reflection and meditation per Pr. Jeff but group discussed giving music a try Sept 18th. In the past CofC has had music during communion.

Committee will plan to meet to review progress of music programs started and plan Thanksgiving/Christmas music.

- j. Youth & Family-Jessica Brand would like to get Luther League going again for Cross of Christ. Working on intergenerational events with confirmation students and parents. Books for Bags cost of \$263.15 for 130 books.
New Youth & Family Cabinet members: April Carrier, Heather Reay, and Richelle Botcher.
 - k. W/ELCA-No report.
6. Old Business:
- a. Hire of Alysia Woodard as Director of Christian Ministries.
Krin Abraham made a motion to hire Alysia Woodard as Director of Christian Ministries, seconded by Sandy Erickson. Motion carries unanimously.
 - b. Stone Church Improvement Policy/Projects: Approval of sidewalk by contractor Josh Bedard/Outer Edge. Amy Kulas made a motion to hire Josh Bedard for the cement work at Stone Church Cemetery, seconded by Holly Westby. Motion carries unanimously.
Steeple and caulking work done by Randy Bearbower. Moved by Krin Abraham for steeple, painting, and repair work for an approximate cost of \$4500.00. Seconded by Sandy Erickson. Motion carries unanimously.
 - c. Hoedown Bingo Payout-Eileen reported that Houston Chamber of Commerce for **Hollidazzle** received a check for \$539.64, and Cross of Christ Church received a check for \$539.64 for **Meet up & Eat Up**.
7. New Business:
- a. Call Committee meeting September 22, 2022.
Confidential for a while as the Call Committee will update Council if they have any information.
 - b. Councils in Conversation (Synod)-Zoom meeting with all churches area wide. Many different topics available. Larry Jerviss will send the council any information that comes through that we may be interested in.
 - c. Snow Removal Contract/Rehire
Rich Botcher will reach out to Adam Olson regarding renewal of contract.

8. Open Discussion:
 - a. Encourage Volunteerism in Church-God's Work our Hands.

9. Calendar-Upcoming events...
 - September 22 Call Committee Meeting
 - September 25 Contemporary Worship Service
 - September 28 Confirmation Orientation
 - October 3 Annual Circle Meeting
 - October 5 Fall Supper

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

Meeting adjourned: 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Runnigen, Secretary
CROSS OF CHRIST CONGREGATION COUNCIL