Cross of Christ Church Council

Minutes of January 19, 2021 Meeting

Officers	P	A	Pastors	P	A	Cabinets	P	A	Cabinets	P	A
Lynn Meyer (*President)*	X		Linda McPeak	X		Gwen Rostad (*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					LeRoy Thompson *(Stone Church Bldg)*	X		Ellen Hongerholt *(Stewardship)*		X
Amanda Langheinrich *(Financial Sec)*		X				Joe Brueggen *(C of C Grounds)*		X	Sue Ferris (*W/ELCA*)	X	
						Lisa Onsgard/Holly Westby *(Evangelism)*	X		Vacant *(Youth Rep)*		

President Lynn Meyer called the Zoom video conference meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Pr. Linda's devotion was about our outgoing council members. We want to thank each and every one of them for their service and their devotion to our church. We are grateful for them and wish them many blessings. She also finished with a scripture reading.

1. **REPORTS:**

   a. **Senior Pastor's Report for December 15, 2020 – January 19, 2021**

      i. Membership Activity:

         1. Funerals/Memorial Services:

            a. Henrietta Nelson, graveside service December 19, 2020

            b. Ervin Krage, January 16, 2021

         2. Baptism: Paisly Rose Schutz, January 17, 2021 (parents; Gunnar and Erin, godparent; Jennifer Goldsmith

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

         1. Visitations, shared word and sacrament have ceased due to Covid-19 health and safety precautions.

         2. 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.

         3. Weekly staff meeting with Office Admin, Children's Ministry Director and Custodians.

         4. Worship & Music

            a. Drive thru communion; Dec. 20, January 3 and January 17.

            b. The Cross of Christ Preparedness Team has recommendation to resume in-person worship service beginning Sunday, February 7, 2021. We will continue to re-evaluate current conditions and safety of gathering in-person regularly. We will continue to provide weekly online worship and drive-through communion planned for the first and third Sundays of the month. Other small groups will still be allowed to meet in person on a case-by-case determination while adhering to all Covid19 protocols.

Confirmation and Sunday school and other children's ministry will be provided hybrid; in-person, online, take-home, and via small groups as determined by Pastor Linda and Children's Ministry Director, Mary Jore.

c. Christmas Eve Services were held online at 3pm Children and Family and 5pm traditional.
d. We began the 5 pm service with joining the entire Houston community in singing "Silent Night". Everyone in and around Houston to step outside their homes, light a candle or some other suitable light and we sing "Silent Night" together safely from our homes or church building.
e. Online Zoom Coffee Hour fellowship Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. Will continue at this time.

iii. Very successful Live Nativity – Sunday, December 20, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm. Brought a nativity scene to life with real people and animals with props, photo ops, stories, song, music, prayer and gratitude.
iv. Through the congregation funds were raised for ELCA Good Gifts totaled over $605 including purchase of the following: Latrine, Honey Bees, Vegetable Garden, Manure, Chicks, Rooster, Piglet, and several Goats.
v. Thank you to everyone who helped take down the Advent and Christmas decorations.
vi. Monthly Church time, the first and third Tuesday at 10 at Heritage Court via Zoom gathering.
vii. Began gathering weekly at VVHCR Wednesdays at 10 am for in-person worship/church time.

b. Participation in the ministry of our larger Church and Community:

i. Root River Rostered Leader Gathering – Tuesday, January 12, 2021
ii. Houston Area Community Foundation – Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Pastor, Linda McPeak

Pr. Linda wanted to highlight that she was very busy last month with Christmas, but she feels all the services went well. She was also very pleased with the live nativity and turnout that we had for it. The weather was great, and everyone enjoyed it. She also wanted to mention that usually every year we collect donations for the ELCA good gifts during the Christmas season, but this year the collection was held online due to the current pandemic. We raised over $600 dollars online this year. This money provided a latrine, manure and several different farm animals, like chickens and goats. Very fun to see these funds being put to good use! Patrick asked if this would have affected our general fund. Pr. Linda said no, as all the purchases were written out to good gifts or purchased online through the website.

c. <u>President's Report:</u>

President Lynn Meyer's report is below:

<u>For January 19, 2021 Church Council meeting:</u>

<u>Meetings Attended:</u>

- Dec 15 Zoom Church Council meeting
- Dec 19 Special Zoom Executive Committee meeting
- Dec 26 Signed legal documents to finalize land boundaries of Stone Church Cemetery
- Jan 5 Pastor/President phone call
- Jan 12 Zoom Executive Committee meeting
- Jan 14 Zoom Preparedness Team meeting
- Jan 17 Special Zoom coffee hour to orient members to annual meeting format

CABINET HIGHLIGHTS:

Finance Cabinet will present December and year-end financial results which look like Cross of Christ will end the year with a surplus for 2020.

Youth and Family. It was good to see several of the youth members attend and participate in the Live Nativity on December 20th. Jessica Brand will probably report on a project she and Eileen Hegland are leading for Club 56 youth members.

OLD BUSINESS:

2020 Annual Meeting: Preparation continues for our January 24th Annual Meeting which, according to current plans, will be held virtually. Members are being invited to participate in the 9:00 am Zoom coffee hour on January 17th to familiarize them with how this will work for our annual meeting. Presenters and those who will be working behind the scenes are having a practice run on January 21st.

NEW BUSINESS:

Preparedness Team met on January 14th to review the status of Covid-19, requests for use of our space and options for re-opening the sanctuary for in-person worship. The group agreed to accept requests for use of our building from WELCA, Houston Public Schools and Valley View Healthcare and Rehab. They also decided to resume in-person worship with restrictions on February 7th unless conditions change between now and then.

Lynn Meyer, President
Cross of Christ Congregation Council

This is Lynn's last council meeting as president. She has been busy preparing for the Annual Meeting. She is very grateful for her time on council and we are looking forward to continuing to work with Lynn through other aspects of the church.

d. **Secretary's Report:**
   i. *Jill Hahn made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 15th meeting. Gwen Rostad seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.*

e. **Financial Administrator's Report:**
   i. December giving came in 32% above budget for December, which offset some of our increased expenses for insurance and youth and family.
   ii. YTD total giving was still down compared to years past as well as budgeted.
   iii. December ended with a surplus of $4,932.
   iv. 2020 Year End came in at a surplus of $1,332.
   v. Patrick also wanted to touch on our balance sheet/endowment fund performance:
      1. He mentioned that our two endowment funds had an overall gain of 6.5% for the year. The funds ended up with more money in them compared to last year, even after taking out the $39,000 approved from the stone church endowment to offset the costs for the stone church maintenance that come out of our general fund.
   vi. Pr. Linda asked Patrick where the meet up and eat up funds are tracked.
      1. Patrick mentioned that we track this separately, but he could pull a report for Pr. Linda if she would like. We could also move these funds to the memorial checking, but the finance committee would have to meet on this to discuss.

vii. Lynn asked Patrick where the money comes from for our 4 mission buckets. This all comes from the C of C endowment fund. We can take up to 5% of the available balance each year and then split it evenly between the 4 buckets.
viii. For the Stone Church endowment, the only money that is pulled from this is used for the stone church upkeep costs.
ix. Lynn is wondering how much our giving was down compared to last year. Patrick will get a report and send to Lynn.
x. Lastly, Pr. Linda wanted to make a suggestion to the council to start thinking about what we want to do with the surplus from 2020. Do we want to designate this towards something in 2021 or give it to a local mission, such as the food shelf or the fire department? All council members are encouraged to think about this and bring ideas to the next council meeting.
xi. *Pr. Linda made a motion to approve the December financial administrators report. Susan Ferris 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 had nothing new to report.

c. Finance:
i. Gwen had nothing new to report.

d. Personnel:
i. Krin absent. No report

e. C of C Grounds:
i. Joe absent. No report

f. C of C Building:
i. Keith's absent. No report.

g. Stone Church:
i. LeRoy absent. No report.

h. Stewardship & Missions:
i. Ellen absent. No report.

i. Worship & Music:
i. Kathy had nothing new to report.

j. Youth & Family:
i. Jessica mentioned that they will be kicking off Club56 again next week. They will have the kids come up with an art project. They are also hosting a snow day at the nursing home this Sunday for the kids to make snow men in the yard so the residents can watch through the windows. Jessica and Susan were wondering if the kids could come into the church for hot chocolate after building snowmen? At this time the preparedness team has decided to not allow any in-person worship until February 7th. They are not going to be allowing coffee hour yet either. This may bring up some issues with other congregation members. We could bring this to the preparedness team to let them decide, but the council should not decide this. Another issue is that the kids will be eating so their masks will be off as well. This increases risks for everyone.

k. W/ELCA:
i. Susan had nothing new to report. All meetings were canceled due to COVID.

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**

a. Annual Meeting:
i. Annual meeting is this Sunday January 24th via Zoom. All attendees will be asked to sign their name in the zoom chat for attendance, or will be asked for their name if they call in only. We ask all council members to attend to ensure that we reach a quorum of 50 so we

can approve our issues. The link is on the church website, on Facebook and in the Echoes and Whispers newsletter. If people don't have a computer, they can call in to Zoom instead using the provided phone number. All council members are encouraged to spread the word. All confirmed members are voting members. So, if people have kids at home or spouses, they are encouraged and invited to attend as well.

b. Nominating Committee:

i. Still need to fill the Stone Church properties position. If we don't have a person by the annual meeting, we will ask for nominations from the floor during the meeting to approve at the February council meeting.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Preparedness Team Update:

i. Jill reported that we will be opening the church back up on February 7th for in-person worship. Face masks will be required for all. The preparedness team has also approved usage of the building to Houston Knowledge bowl, the ELCA quilters, and the Valley View Manor annual meeting. Only board members and presenters will be in the fellowship hall. At this time, we are not allowing any food or beverage service. All people using the building must be wearing a mask at all times and following our protocols. For communion when we are in-person Pr. Linda will hand it out as people are leaving the church, and we will also be continuing with the drive-through communion for the people that will not be at the in-person worship.

5. **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

a. None.

6. Upcoming Events:

a. January 19 – Church Council – Zoom 6pm
b. January 20, 27 and February 2, 9 and 16 – VVH&R 10am-Worship/Bible Study
c. January 24 – Annual Meeting via Zoom 11:15am
d. January 24 & February 14 – Worship Service – 10:15am
e. January 28 – Bible Briefing – 2pm
f. January 31 – CofC Worship Service and Baptism Henry Hongerholt – 10:15am
g. February 2 and 16 – Zoom/Bible Study-HC – 10am
h. February 7 – CofC Worship Service, 10:15am, Drive Thru Communion – 11:15am
i. February 7 – Cabin Fever Event – 1pm-4pm Sunday School Family Event (7-9 Grade Help)
j. February 9 – 5:30 Zoom Executive Meeting
k. February 15 – 17 – WELCA Do Days
l. February 16 – Church Council Meeting – Zoom 6pm

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paige Markegard, Secretary
CROSS OF CHRIST CONGREGATION COUNCIL