

APPROVED

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Congregational Council Meeting
March 27, 2018
Ronald C. Peterson Library 6pm

Present: Pastor John Hierlinger, Pastor Amanda Simons, Denise Hassenstab, Rick Howard, Amy Lipetzky, Elaine Olson, Bruce Pelava, Dan Shogren, Jason Wittenberg

Absent: Brett Bowman

Devotions: Pastor John posed the question, "In a world of conflicting values, pluralistic leanings, and abundant choices, why does church matter?" Several council members shared their thoughts. He then led the council in prayer.

Call to order: 6:17 pm President Denise Hassenstab called the meeting to order.

Virtual Votes since the 02.27.18 Council Meeting: Motion to approve February 27, 2018 minutes was made by Elaine Olson, seconded by Bruce Pelava; **approval** by virtual vote with final **approval** on March 3, 2018. There were 6 ayes and 3 abstentions.

03.11.18 Special Council Meeting: Council President Denise Hassenstab called the meeting to order at 3:35p. Motion to approve funding for an intern to serve GA from August 2018-June 2019 was made by Dan Shogren, seconded by Jason Wittenberg. Discussion followed. All members present voted aye. Bruce Pelava was absent. Denise moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:45p, seconded by Jason Wittenberg.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Denise Hassenstab, seconded by Rick Howard; unanimously approved.

Approval of Financials/Treasurer's Report: Pastor John reviewed the February 2018 Finance Report. Property expenses were higher than usual due to winter conditions and an unexpected expense of \$735.00 paid to the City of St. Paul for a Certificate of Occupancy. Net income was -9,604.66. The income and expenses will be closely monitored. Bruce Pelava moved to approve the report, seconded by Jason Wittenberg; unanimously approved.

Old Business:

1. Capital Campaign update – Pastor John submitted this written statement: The Stewardship Team met on Tuesday, March 6th to discuss next steps. We have decided that the team will interview three capital campaign teams. Two of those will happen on Wednesday, April 18th and the third still needs to be scheduled. We will have a more detailed update at our April meeting.
2. Men's Winter Retreat update - Pastor John submitted this written statement: There were six people from GA that headed up to Lake of the Woods for our Men's Winter Retreat. We had a fantastic time as a group for our long weekend away. In addition to the great time of fellowship, games of cribbage and storytelling we even caught fish. We finished with about 80 fish for the weekend. Those in attendance shared a hope to do a trip like this again.

3. Staff/Council Retreat Follow-Up – Pastor John led the council through a discussion about prioritizing the different ideas that were generated during the retreat on March 11. Each council member was asked to name his/her priorities from the following categories: Youth, Worship, Building, and Internal/External Communication. Pastor John will compile this priorities list for further discussion at the April council meeting.
4. Intern Update – Notification will be given by the second week of April about whether or not we will have an intern.

New Business

1. Members for Synod Assembly – Pastor Amanda asked for volunteers to attend the Synod Assembly at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi on Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19 to represent GA. Four delegates (two male and two female) are needed. Elaine Olson committed to attending. Denise Hassenstab may be able to attend on Saturday. The deadline for early bird registration is April 15th.
2. Luther Hall/Choir Loft Upgrade Updates – Rick Howard got the third quote from EDI this afternoon. He reviewed the estimates from each company and the differences in what they include. The Sons of Norway have offered to give \$500.00 toward the purchase of a projector screen. Rick will provide more detailed information about what options are available to choose from at the April meeting. Bruce Pelava presented information about the choir loft upgrade. BWBR gave a quote of \$5400.00 to do the engineer models needed to begin the work. Discussion followed about the estimated costs for this project and the likelihood that it will cost more than what is currently available in the Craft Sale Dedicated Fund. Dan Shogren moved to approve the expense of the Choir Loft Improvement Project with the understanding that it will be funded by the Craft Sale Dedicated Fund and the Building Reserve Fund. The Building Reserve Fund will be reimbursed 100% through profits of future craft sales. Jason Wittenberg seconded the motion; unanimously approved. Bruce will contact BWBR to get that part of the project started.
3. 2017 Audit – Bruce Pelava reported that Len Peterson has agreed to do the audit and will contact Dave Grefe to find out if he will be available.
4. Worship On the Farm – tabled until the April council meeting.
5. Youth Gathering Update – Pastor Amanda shared that 9 youth and 3 adults will be attending the gathering. She also mentioned two upcoming fundraisers. A movie night will be held on April 28 and the campaign to sponsor a youth will begin in the near future. Amy Lipetzky made a motion to authorize the spending of cash of up to \$3360.00 for the 2018 Youth Gathering, seconded by Rick Howard; unanimously approved.
6. Continuing Education for Pastor Amanda – Pastor Amanda reported that she will be attending the Festival of Homiletics in Washington, D.C. in late May. She also presented a proposal for taking sabbatical during Summer 2019 and asked for approval to apply for a grant through the Lily Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program. Denise Hassenstab made a motion to approve applying for the grant on Pastor Amanda's behalf, seconded by Bruce Pelava; unanimously approved. Further discussion regarding a sabbatical will be held at a future meeting.
7. Personnel Committee Update – Amy Lipetzky will be profiling a GA staff member in the May newsletter.
8. State Fair Parking Chairperson – tabled until the April council meeting.

Committee Reports were given. Pastor John reported on behalf of the Property Committee regarding the possible purchase of a new riding lawnmower. The Friday work crew has been using three lawnmowers that are not in good working condition. A quote of \$2400.00 was given by Reed's for the purchase of a new Snapper lawnmower. Bruce Pelava will contact work crew member Don Selander and Reed's to determine which lawnmowers may be able

to be repaired and if any of them can be used as a trade-in toward the purchase of a new one. A virtual vote will be made regarding the purchase after council members receive this information. It was also reported that a congregation member purchased and donated a new gas trimmer to the church. Pastor Amanda reported on behalf of the Adult Education Committee about the upcoming Table Talks that she will be presenting about the Reformation.

Council Schedule for 2018: Usually the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. 4/24, 5/22, 6/26, 7/24, 8/28, 9/25, 10/23, 11/27, (no Dec. meeting)

Motion to Adjourn: Pastor John moved to adjourn, seconded by Jason Wittenberg; unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2018, at 6:00 pm in the Peterson Library.

Submitted by Cathy Ronning, Council Secretary