

APPROVED

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Congregational Council Meeting
March 28, 2017
Ronald C. Peterson Library 6pm

Present: Aaron Bayer, Brett Bowman, Denise Hassenstab, Amy Lipetzky, Nancy Nelson, Bruce Pelava, Dan Shogren, Jason Wittenberg, Pastor Amanda Simons, and Pastor John Hierlinger

Call to order: 6:05 pm Dan Shogren called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Time was given to a devotional thought led by Pastor Amanda based on John 11:1-45, Jesus' raising of Lazarus from the dead.

Virtual Votes since the 02.28.17 Council Meeting:

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve February 28, 2017, minutes was made by Jason Wittenberg, seconded by Amy Lipetzky; approval by virtual vote with final approval on March 6, 2017.

Approval of Agenda: Pr. Amanda moved to approve, Nancy Nelson seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

Council decided to continue having pizza available at the start of meetings. Nancy Nelson will pick up pizza and be reimbursed by council members eating.

Approval of Financials-Treasurer's Report: Brett Bowman reviewed the February 2017 Profit and Loss Summary as of February 28, 2017. Net income for February was \$1340.42; net income for 2017 (1st two months) is \$3480.29. "Together in Faith" gifts of \$20,000 are needed for a balanced budget in 2017. Approval of the Treasurer's report was moved by Aaron Bayer, seconded by Bruce Pelava; unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- 1. Tenants/Merrick Construction/Transition Team Update:** A new congregation, Savior Alliance Church, is in conversation with Pastor John regarding a possible lease of space. Merrick construction has begun - asbestos removal will occur the next 2-3 weeks. Weekly meetings are occurring with excellent communication between GA staff and the construction foreman. The transition team is formulating plans for remodeling spaces for GA's programming needs, to be worked on over the summer.
- 2. Together in Faith Update:** 'Together in Faith' appeal of \$20,000 is needed for a balanced budget in 2017, approved at the Annual Meeting. Information regarding the Gateway Fund will be shared in an upcoming mailing; Together in Faith information will be included.
- 3. Photo Directory Update:** Members are in the process of signing up for photo sessions; 3 days in April and 3 days in May are available. Several volunteers are helping.
- 4. Funeral Coordinator Update** - Five members have volunteered and been trained.
- 5. Summer Food Program Update** - GA may be a site this summer on a trial basis. The consensus of council members was very supportive of this program. A sponsor would handle the food acquisition and government cost reimbursement; GA would be a meal site.
- 6. Area Ministry Strategy Update** - Two upcoming meetings are scheduled. There will again be a joint Good Friday worship service (at Our Redeemer) and Summer Stretch. Additional updates will be available in May.

7. Lent/Holy Week/Easter Update: Rotation of pastors for Lenten worship is underway. Services have been planned for Holy Week, Good Friday (at Our Redeemer), & Easter. Council serves soup supper on 3/29.
8. Habitat for Humanity - Planning for GA's role this year is awaiting the Thrivent Build dates to be released. Bruce Pelava is the contact and will follow up as information is available.
9. Council Retreat Date: Pastor John and Pastor Amanda will coordinate their availability for possible Friday evenings or Sunday afternoons and then seek input from council members.
10. AED Training for staff is being planned for two hours, perhaps including ushers. A few staff will take the fully certified training.
11. Plans for the 2016 audit: Financial Resources committee will be advising on procedures. Denise Hassenstab will check with co-workers regarding auditors assisting non-profits.
12. Task Force on Constitution Revision: Task Force members are working jointly on uploaded Google docs to facilitate this work.
13. Task Force on Exploration of GA becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation - five members have agreed to serve. Men under 50 are being sought to join the task force for age and gender balance.
14. GA website improvement has begun and will be fully implemented later in 2017.

New Business:

1. **Approval** of Adjusted Housing Allowance - Pastor John requested his 2017 housing allowance be increased to \$43,000; motion by Aaron Bayer, seconded by Amy Lipetzky; unanimous approval.
2. Congregational Vitality Assessment Tool - Pastor John presented the possibility of using this assessment facilitated by the synod. The assessment tool will be reviewed and discussed at an upcoming council meeting.
3. State Fair Parking Chair Person - Denise Hassenstab will check with Erik to see if he is willing to serve as the Chair again in 2017.

Due to time constraints Committee reports were not given. The Global Missions committee reminded Council of the upcoming fundraising dinner and silent auction to be held 5/6/17.

Council 2017 Liaison Assignments:

Amy Lipetzky – Youth, Photo Directory	Aaron Bayer – Property
Nancy Nelson – Personnel & Finance	Jason Wittenberg – Finance
Denise Hassenstab – Education & Global Mission	Bruce Pelava – Worship & Music
Dan Shogren – Social Ministry & Global Mission	

Council Schedule for 2017: Usually the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. 4/25, 5/23, 6/27, 7/25, 8/22, 9/26, 10/24, 11/28 (no meeting 12/26)

Motion to Adjourn: Bruce Pelava moved to adjourn, seconded by Aaron Bayer; unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Next Meeting: April 25, 2017, at 6:00 pm in the Library.

Submitted by Janet Peterson, Council Secretary