

APPROVED

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Congregational Council Meeting
June 25, 2019
Ronald C. Peterson Library 6pm

Present: Pastor John Hierlinger, Jason Wittenberg, Amy Lipetzky, Dan Bjorkquist, Denise Hassenstab, Rick Howard, Dan Shogren, Kimberly Ryan

Absent: Pastor Amanda Simons, Brett Bowman, Carrie Fraser

Devotions: Rick Howard shared a devotion and led the council in prayer.

Call to order: President Jason Wittenberg called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.

Virtual Votes since the 05.29.19 Council Meeting: Motion to approve the May 28, 2019 minutes was made by Rick Howard, seconded by Dan Bjorkquist; **approval** by virtual vote with three abstentions due to absence and final **approval** on June 6, 2019.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda was made by Pastor John, seconded by Denise Hassenstab; unanimously approved.

Approval of Financials/Treasurer's Report: Brett was absent from the meeting, but attached the May 2019 Finance Report to an email sent to all council members on Monday 6/24 and included the following remarks: *As you'll see, we had better than average general giving and that is now over our YTD budgeted amount. There were also significant Transfers In for Sheridan Story payments, a new coffee maker, Guatemala ministry support, and summer camperships. Of course, there were corresponding expenses in the Expense section.* A motion to approve the financial report was made by Jason Wittenberg, seconded by Amy Lipetzky; unanimously approved.

Old Business:

1. **Strategic Plan** – Discussion of this agenda item focused on addressing the following questions: 1) what goals determined by the task force will be chosen to work on first? and 2) who is responsible for making sure they are implemented and completed? Denise Hassenstab has developed a spreadsheet listing these goals, including columns for recording ownership and completion dates. Dan Bjorkquist offered to categorize the goals and Rick Howard will work on prioritizing them. The spreadsheet will then be shared with and reviewed by council members via email before the July meeting.
2. **Parking Lot Repairs** – Rick Howard gave an overview of the repairs that are needed for both parking lots. Council members reviewed the proposals that have been received. Discussion followed. Rick Howard made a motion to hold a special congregational

meeting on July 14th to present the proposal from T.A. Schifsky and Sons for the needed parking lot improvements, seconded by Pastor John; unanimous approval.

3. GA 130th Anniversary (see date below) – Pastor John provided the following written report: *We hope you all can join us for the celebration on June 30th. We cancelled the golf event on June 29th because of the lack of participation. Thank you to Karen Landkamer for all of her hard work with this event. It will be a wonderful celebration.*
4. Personnel Update – Pastor John provided the following written report: *Pastor John, Maggie Kidnie, and Rick Howard will be conducting interviews for the third part-time custodian on Wednesday, June 26th. We know one of the people we would like to meet with is out of town for this date, so interviews will be pushed into July. The council will be updated once there is more information to share.*
5. Prayground Update - Pastor John provided the following written report: *June 16th was our first Sunday with the Prayground. It is a great addition to the worship space. At this time, the pastoral staff is not aware of any complaints or concerns about the new Prayground. If a council member has heard feedback, please bring these comments to the meeting.*
6. Community Meal – Pastor John provided the following written report: *Request for funds to clean up the pantry (in the hallway, next to Kevin and Jerry's office). The leaders of Open Table, as well as other volunteers who see to it that the kitchen be kept clean, went to work on the pantry two weeks ago. They realized that there was a lot of evidence of mice in that room, both on the shelving units as well as the carpet. It was decided to remove the wooden shelves, that had a solid top and held onto all the mice waste, and replace them with industrial strength metal shelving. The shelves in the unit need to be replaced and they feel this will be a much better solution. The shelves will be similar to those found in the kitchen store room now. The Open Table is seeking funding for new shelves as well as paint to freshen up that space. They are requesting the spending of \$1,100.00. The cost of this will come primarily from Thrivent Action Team cards that have been applied for and granted as well as money designated from the Craft Fair to cover the remaining amount. Because of the cost, this needs council's approval. Pastor John will be bringing a motion that will be stated similar to these words: I (Pastor John Hierlinger) move that the Congregation Council approve the spending of \$1,100 for new shelves and paint for the church pantry. Pastor John made the motion to approve this expenditure, seconded by Amy Lipetzky; unanimous approval.*
7. 12-Step Program Tenant Update - Pastor John reported that the group who wanted to use space is not a fit for meeting at GA after further evaluation.

New Business:

1. State Fair Parking – As reported earlier, Erik Hassenstab and Elaine Olson will co-chair this event. Arlington Hills has been contacted to take a shift during each day of the fair. Erik will be updating GA's Sign Up Genius account to use for scheduling volunteers.
2. Fall Programming – The Adult Education Committee will be meeting on Saturday 7/27 to plan.
3. New Tenant Request – Pastor John informed the council that he was asked by a representative of a Hmong dance group to use meeting space on Sundays from 10am-12pm. Pastor John moved to approve this request made by Youvana Wellness, seconded by Jason Wittenberg; unanimously approved.
4. Current Tenant Request - Sons of Norway have requested consideration of using additional storage. Pastor John informed the council that they will pay\$60/month for storage space in the north hallway and \$25/month for additional space in the fan room downstairs. Council members were agreeable to this.

Committee Reports were given.

Rick Howard gave a report on behalf of the Property Committee.

Council Schedule for 2019: Council Schedule for 2019: Usually the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. 7/30, 8/27, 9/24, 10/22, 11/26, (no Dec. meeting)

Motion to Adjourn: Jason Wittenberg moved to adjourn, seconded by Dan Shogren at 8:00pm.

Next Meeting: July 30, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Jake's Grill, Maplewood.

Submitted by Cathy Ronning, Council Secretary