

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday, June 28, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Linda Strine, and a quorum was established.

**Attending:** Pastor Alyssa, Linda Strine, Kathy Jacobson, Lynn Danner, Linda Mitchell, Debbie Wright, Susan Paterson, Leslie Green, and Ken Denton.

**Absent:** James Monsebroten, Calum Stevenson, Ian Stevenson, Kallie Mill.

**Devotions and Prayer:** Linda Strine

1. **May 2022 Treasurer's Report to June 2022 Council**

2. **Revenue & Expense to Budget Comparison May 31, 2022**

- What a pleasure to have an almost \$41,000 month. We received two major contributions totaling \$27,000. It is also a pleasure that Gloria Dei's community continues to support the ministry of the church with offerings and special gifts.
- Ordinary expenses for the month and YTD are nearly up to budget level. Net Ordinary Revenue is \$15,803 instead of budgeted (\$3,369). Net Ordinary Revenue Year to Date continues to be significantly below budget, reflecting cumulative below budget revenue and near budget expense numbers.
- Net Other Income is negative because most of the Other Expenses did not come from Other Income in the month of May. A legal fee \$390 was paid out of 2021 Endowment Acquired Property seed fund. Most of the World Hunger and Disaster funds were banked in April.
- 10. Kitchen training fees will be covered by designated kitchen funds. Net Other Income YTD is \$22,242.
- The 2022 Budget is a brave one. Gloria Dei approved a 2022 annual budget to be funded with Revenue of \$274,081. Jim Gilbert built in \$17,600 for Annual Net Ordinary Income, a cushion he expected we might need.
- Total expenses in 2022 have been running just under budgeted expenses. January through May, we spent 96.8% of Budgeted YTD Ordinary Expenses.

11. **Looking Forward to July**

- The Intern Budget and The Pastors' personal housing need to be integrated into the 2022 budget. This will happen during July and will carry through December and into the 2023 Budget. Jim Gilbert and Patrick Franks are drafting a model for review by committee over the weekend to show Council at their June 28 Zoom meeting.

12. Please see the attached complete May 2022 Treasurer's Report.

13.

**Approval of Minutes** In an effort to publish Council minutes in a more timely manner, Leslie moved

to circulate electronically the current minutes to Council members following Council meeting; Council members would review, make edits and approve the minutes. The approved minutes would then be sent to the office manager for publication in the following weekly e-news. Kathy Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion failed.

Following a discussion, it was decided that we continue with the process we have been following, with one change. When the first draft of the current minutes is sent out to Council members, they should “reply all” with any edits. If no further responses are received by the 20th of the following month, the minutes will be considered approved as edited and distributed by email.

The minutes of the Council Meeting of May 24, 2022, were approved as distributed via email.

### **Pastor's Report**

- The intern office has been relocated to what used to be the Youth Room. Curtis and Honora have

cleaned it out and we are getting it set up and furnished.

- Pastor Alyssa and Dan will be out of the intern house and into a rental over the next week.
- Visitation team has met and begun visiting, though Covid rates are high and visits need to be limited

and/or include extreme precautions.

### **Pastoral Acts**

- Q&A (Queers and Allies group); An End-of -School-Year Waffle Party 6/9/22
- Ministerial meeting 6/14/22
- Juneteenth Beaver Hill Mine Historical Marker Dedication 6/18/22
- IP17 Signature-gathering @ Farmer’s Market with Pr Katherine (from Faith Lutheran) 6/22/22
- Dorothy Miller Memorial Service 6/25/22
- Amber Townsend Memorial Service 6/27/22

### **Upcoming**

- Intern Emily’s arrival will be around July 8th; her first Sunday with us will be July 10, 2022.
- Sharon Magnuson will join us Sunday, July 31st for a special presentation and worship service focusing on the war in Ukraine and how it is affecting, and will continue to affect, hunger issues.

### **Other**

- Roe vs Wade letter from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: Pastor read the letter and members of Council expressed general approval of Bishop Eaton's message.
- Warning from Homeland Security re: “credible threat for possible planned violence.” Included in the warning are churches that hold women in high esteem and stand for the rights of all people.

Pastor is waiting on some other resources we can use as we consider how to remain safe yet welcoming.

In discussion, it was determined that we should be intentional about securing our facilities (keeping the office locked during worship services, checking to be sure no one is in the restrooms/classrooms when

we lock up, welcoming newcomers and being aware of any odd behavior, etc.) Linda Mitchell suggested we discuss this further after Pastor has received resource information from the synod.

- Pastor announced she and Dan have signed papers for a rental apartment in Coquille today and they will be moving this week.
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## **Committee Reports**

### **Lot Committee:** Ken Denton

- Some clearing on the lot has been done so the survey could be made. The survey was completed in the last couple of days. After a contour map is created, the architect will make a proposal.
- The NHA Advisory Committee will meet sometime the second half of July.
- The Option Agreement we saw at the Congregational Meeting will be signed when we have more information, toward the end of August. (NHA has accepted all the edits we made to the agreement.)
- Ken contacted the HR department at the hospital, asking if they want to put someone on the advisory committee; they indicated their nurses wouldn't qualify as potential residents because their salary level exceeds the maximum allowed. However, Ken plans to discuss the possibility of other hospital personnel who might qualify and benefit from the housing we propose.

### **PRIDE Representative:** Ken Denton

- South Coast Oregon Pride worked with the city of Coos Bay to fly a pride flag on the waterfront during the month of June.
- August 20th "Pride in the Park" at Boynton Park, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Free lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta salad, chips, drinks). Gloria Dei will have a table where Ken will talk to attendees about our welcoming RIC church. Ken and 5 other members will prepare the lunch; they will use the church kitchen to do prep work the day before. Ken has personally donated \$500 (in name of Gloria Dei) toward the \$900 cost of the meal. Others can make donations toward this and the \$40 fee for the table by writing a check to Gloria Dei with "Pride in the Park" in the memo line. The Council was advised that our Pride flag, which had been hanging at the entrance of the church during the month of June, was stolen. A replacement has been ordered.

### **Building and Grounds Report:** written report submitted by Boyd Bjorkquist

Minutes of the Building/Grounds Committee meeting held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 4:30 PM.

In attendance were Boyd Bjorkquist, Don Blom, Irene Sund, Vern Simpson.

#### **I. Building**

##### A) Roofs

a. The social hall roof has been repaired. It has minor leaks that Don Blom will address with Bob VanderVellden, the contractor who did the work.

b. The water in the pastor's office was caused by a downspout that was plugged up with twigs and leaves

c. The sanctuary roof is in good shape.

#### B) Lights

a. Many lights in the church have fluorescent bulbs and the ballasts are failing. They are being replaced by LED lights that will use less energy and last a long time.

#### C) Siding

a. The siding near the entrance to the front of the church is starting to decay. Some boards will need to be replaced. There is also some on the west side of the sanctuary that are starting to decay.

#### D) Carpet

a. It was approved two years ago to replace the carpet in the social hall and fireside room. It is to be replaced with carpet squares which are used extensively in commercial buildings. Boyd will contact Jim Paterson at Color Tile to see about getting a price quote for this work. That information will be given to the church council.

#### E) Sign

a. Don would like to spruce up the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church sign that is on the brick part of the building so it is more visible to everyone.

## II. Grounds

#### A) Lawns

a. With lots of rain the lawns have continued to grow vigorously. Hopefully it will slow down soon.

#### B) Hedges

a. Many were pruned back during the cleanup day in the spring. The area that is viewed from the sanctuary needs attention. Don will work on the Japanese maple. Boyd will work on the rest of the plants.

#### C) Memorial Area

a. The plants in the area seemed to be doing well. Some decisions on how we want some shrubs to look will need to be made in the next few years.

b. The fountain has been doing fine and staying clean.

#### D) Driveway Entrances

a. It was discussed that the entrances to the church properties are hard to see, especially at night. Boyd will look into the possibility of putting 6 X 6 cedar posts with some type of solar light on the top. He will get cost estimates.

#### E) Roses

a. Many people have commented on how healthy the roses look. Thank you, Vern and Judy, for taking care of this area.

The Building and Grounds Committee will begin meeting quarterly.

## **Kitchen Management Committee – Linda Strine**

Linda reported that the Church had received a letter from the City of Coos Bay announcing they were proposing to introduce a new ordinance that required grease traps in all commercial kitchens in the area. After talking to Don Blom, we found out that we had one installed when our kitchen was remodeled, so we are already compliant as far as we know. We will have to pay for permits in the future, and Linda was encouraged by Council members to turn the matter over to Don for follow-up with the city.

## **Unfinished Business: Linda Strine**

### **Continuation of Church Operations During Covid-19**

Because the Community Risk level due to Covid-19 is still high, the Council decided to continue allowing in-person church, with masks required, and stressing the importance of maintaining social distancing...especially during coffee hour after church.

## **New Business**

### **A. Background Checks in Child and Youth Abuse Prevention Program**

Council discussed the need for an update in our current Non-Clergy Personnel Policy Handbook regarding the frequency of background checks. Richard Whitwer has agreed to continue doing the background checks, but he has asked that we state a definite frequency, not just “periodically” as stated in the handbook. Ken moved that we conduct background checks every 5 years. Linda Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Council Retreat**

Ken and Cathy Denton have opened their home to host the Council Retreat on Saturday, August 6th.

### **C. Affordable Housing Advocacy Letters**

The ELCA is asking us to send letters of advocacy to our legislators urging support in favor of affordable housing and homeless programs in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. Council members reviewed a sample letter and Ken Denton moved that Gloria Dei send letters to various legislators. Sue Paterson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

### **D. Gloria Dei as a Disaster Relief Center**

Gloria Dei has been designated as a Disaster Relief Center by the local American Red Cross; we also have agreements with Avamere and Bay Area Hospital to serve as a “temporary placement facility” in the event of an emergency. Linda Strine expressed concerns that our building may not be stable enough to be available for respite in the event of an earthquake. She has learned there are grants available for seismic assessment and upgrades. Ken stated he has been trying to get in touch with an engineer who specializes in earthquakes. The Council expressed support in following up on this matter.

### **E. Lift Every Voice Oregon**

At Synod Assembly, the representatives of all Oregon ELCA congregations passed the Lift Every Voice Oregon resolution in support of IP 17 and IP18. (Lift Every Voice Oregon is an interfaith coalition of people of good will in Oregon). IP17 would ban the sale of large capacity magazines over 10 bullets; would require a permit and training to purchase any gun; would require a complete background check before purchase, closing the Charleston loophole; and would address the registration of “ghost” guns. IP18 would ban the manufacture and sale of semi-automatic assault style weapons, while allowing current owners to keep those they own after registering, for restricted use only. Pastor Alyssa explained she has a petition members of Gloria Dei can sign (as well as links to sign online) to support these measures to be on the ballot in November. General discussion ensued and Council members supported this effort, insofar as raising awareness concerning this potentially divisive topic.

## **Miscellaneous/Good of the Order**

### **A. Synod Grant Application for Queers and Allies Group**

The Grant Application that was approved at the May meeting requesting \$2,500 from the Oregon Synod Delk Fund Grant Program to help provide resources and Advocacy Training for the Q & A group that meets in our church was approved by the Synod.

The Q & A group now is forming a parents' support group that will meet concurrently with the youth. Discussion was held concerning how this group might use our building, our building use requirements, etc. Pastor Alyssa will be getting more information for the Council.

### **B. Pregnancy Center Parking Lot Use**

General discussion was held regarding allowing employees of the pregnancy center to use the Gloria Dei parking lot. Although we certainly want to be good neighbors, being a congregation that welcomes all, we don't necessarily want to be perceived as strong supporters of the pregnancy center and their limited viewpoint.

Linda Mitchell moved to deny access to our parking lot; Ken Denton seconded the motion. The motion

passed with one abstention.

**C. 90-Day Work Evaluation for Sable Stallings** Ken Denton

Ken reported that the Personnel Committee received rave reviews from everyone who was contacted, so she'll be continuing as our custodian.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 26, 6:00 p.m.**

**June Devotions and Prayer: Leslie Green**

**Adjourn:** The meeting **adjourned** with the Lord's Prayer at 9:36 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Lynn Danner, Council Secretary

(with gratitude for help from Kathy Jacobson who completed taking notes the last half of the meeting)