

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday, August 23, 2022

The meeting (conducted via Zoom) was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Linda Strine and a quorum was established.

**Attending:** Pastor Alyssa, Intern Emily, Linda Strine, Kathy Jacobson, Debbie Wright, Susan Paterson, Leslie Green, Ken Denton; guest, Richard Whitwer.

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

**Devotions and Prayer:** Debbie Wright

**Treasurer's Report as of July 30, 2022**

- July Revenue includes \$15,000 from the 2022 Endowment Fund allocated to the Internship Program. It has been in our bank since February as “other income”, but is now formally deployed for expenditure.
- In July we had 55 givers. All the miscellaneous cash for the month was counted as 1 giver. One third of July giving was online.
- General Fund ended July on a positive note at \$9,804, only \$2,670 down from June 30.
- In July we integrated the Intern Ministry Addendum from the Annual Meeting into the 2022 budget, with funding from the Endowment Grant added into appropriate accounts. Per contract, we also changed Pastor Alyssa's salary to reflect her move out of church furnished housing. Pastor's salary follows Oregon Synod Guidelines. The salary formula of October, 2021 scaled up in January 2022 with Clergy COLA benefits. We deducted an agreed portion of salary monthly to cover Pastor's housing and utilities in the Intern House; we stopped that deduction in July when Pastor vacated the Intern House. Pastor has declared \$15,000 from her July – December salary to be designated as Housing Allowance.
- Intern Emily moved into the Intern House in July. The January 2022 Budget was based on a reasonable assumption that the changeover, if it happened in 2022, would happen in August. The move in July means we deducted one less month of housing costs from Pastor's salary. We also spread our Internship Endowment Grant over 6 months (Jul - Dec) instead of 5 months (Aug-Dec.) The Internship Endowment Grant was intentionally generous as we moved out of COVID. There was also a welcome delay by Wartburg Seminary in raising Internship Stipend from \$1,800/mon to the \$2,000/mon we budgeted. Wartburg also reduced their \$1,500 annual fee to \$1,000. Those two discounts almost cover the \$800 stipend budget overrun of 6 months instead of 5 months.

Please see the attached complete July 2022 Treasurer's Report.

**Approval of Minutes** The minutes of the Council Meeting of July 26, 2022 are considered approved as corrected and emailed after August 20, 2022.

**Pastor's Report**

- **Pastoral Acts:** August 5, 2022 Joyce Bjorkquist memorial  
August 6, 2022 Council Retreat  
August 20, 2022 Pride in the Park  
August 16, 23, & 30, 2022 “Stepping Up to Supervision” continuing ed. online
- **Upcoming:** October 17 – 19, 2022 Bishop's Convocation  
TBD Fall Confirmation dates – begin when Sunday School starts up

**Intern's Report**

- **This month:** August 6, 2022 attended Council Retreat  
August 14, 2022 lead worship solo

August 16, 2022 Ministerium  
August 20, 2022 Pride in the Park

This was a very successful and joyous event. Together with Pastor Alyssa, I manned the Gloria Dei table and was very pleased to meet many people who came up to express their appreciation to and interest in Gloria Dei.

- **Upcoming/Ongoing;** October 17-19 Bishop's Convocation, Newport, OR  
October 25 & 26, Intern/Supervisor cluster retreat, Bend, WA  
Visiting members (scheduling 2 or 3 each week)  
September 29-October 3 vacation

### **Committee Reports**

#### A. Lot Committee, Ken Denton

We had our first Supervisory Committee meeting on August 12 (Irene Sund, Richard Whitwer, and I represented Gloria Dei). NHA's Englewood School proposal did not get state funding, but it is a tough project. Our project has advantages, (for example, our zoning is good and our scale is better), but we do need to be aware this can happen.

NHA knows we'd like to see some proposal before we sign the lot away, so they sent us a revised MOU specifying that we plan to sign the Option Agreement in November. Meanwhile, their architect sent us a very preliminary proposal, designed to open conversation with the city about utilities and requirements. (Council members were shown this proposal). We are pleased to see that access to the project will be via Yew Street and not via Thompson Rd.

The meeting with the city will probably be within 2-4 weeks. We will need to give our permission, as the landowner; NHA is sending us the form and Linda Strine will sign it.

Leslie reminded us that we will be paying property taxes in November, as the lot is not considered a part of our ministry and is taxable.

#### B. PRIDE Representative, Ken Denton

Pride events this past weekend: Drag Queen Bingo on Friday night filled Front Street Provisioners--great fun was had by all.

Saturday's "Pride in the Park" saw over 400 attendees, about 22 commercial tables (including a table from Gloria Dei), games, face painting, story telling. Gloria Dei paid for half the cost of the food and we were listed as one of the event sponsors on the t-shirts. Gloria Dei volunteers provided and served about 280 free meals of hamburgers, Polish dogs, portabello burgers, and fixin's. We were greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Pastor Alyssa and Intern Emily for manning the Gloria Dei table and to "Ken's Crew": Honora and Curtis Buell, Vern and Judy Simpson, Linda Strine, Mary Ann Lewellyn, Tony Ruff, and Ken and Cathy Denton.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### A. Continuation of Church Operations during Covid-19

As of this week, Coos County's Community Risk Level has been lowered from High to Medium. After brief discussion, Leslie made the following motion: to check the risk level each week (from the Covid Act Now site, <https://covidactnow.org/us/oregon>) and when the level is Medium or lower, wearing of masks will be optional and coffee hour can be held indoors. If/when the risk level rises to High, we will return to wearing masks and serving coffee outdoors. Signs on the church doors and weekly e-news will indicate the status each week. Kathy Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### B. Proposed Changes to the Personnel Handbook, Richard Whitwer

The Personnel Committee reviewed some changes regarding background checks after the Council referred the subject to committee at the last meeting. Also reviewed were some additional changes to bring our Personnel Handbook up to date.

After viewing and discussing the proposed changes to Background Checks and Holiday Policy, Lynn Danner moved that we accept the recommendations of the Personnel Committee and make the changes effective as of this date. Kathy Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **A. Building Use Request from Q&A Coos County Parent Support Group**

The newly formed 501c3 Q&A Parent Support Group would like to meet weekly on Thursday nights, except for the first Thursday of each month, (concurrently with the youth meeting which takes place in the fellowship hall). They request meeting in one of the Sunday School classrooms. They anticipate 5-15 attendees; they don't plan to serve food or drink.

After brief discussion, Council decided to consider the parent support group under the Q&A umbrella, not a separate group. As such, regarding our commitment to the synod grant agreement, the \$7.50/meeting building use fee will be part of our in-kind donation through the three month grant period, August - October. Lynn Danner made the motion; Ken Denton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Discussion of Goals/Action Items from the Council Retreat**

Ken moved that the Council adopt and go forward with the following list of goals that was compiled at the recent retreat; Leslie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Ongoing RIC Objectives
2. Parking Lot Lighting
3. Youth Outreach
4. Community Outreach/Publicity
5. Small Group Bible Studies
6. Affordable Housing
7. Restart WELCA Meals/Senior Meals
8. Contact Inactive Members
9. New/Renewing Members Class/Adult Ed.
10. Revitalize Logos Ministry

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

A. Leslie Green conveyed a suggestion from Paul Halvor that we consider having a light supper/lunch when the financial committee introduces the annual budget (as we had done in pre-Covid days)... a celebration of our stewardship goals and ministries.

B. Lynn Danner suggested we get started on our goal of calling inactive members, letting them know we miss them, inquiring about their needs and encouraging them to return to worship with us. Leslie agreed to make a few calls. Lynn will recruit others who are comfortable doing this.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

**September Devotions and Prayer: Linda Mitchell**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned with praying the Lord's Prayer at 8:19 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

*Lynn Danner*

Lynn Danner, Council Secretary