

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 26, 2022

The meeting (conducted via Zoom) was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by President Linda Strine and a quorum was established.

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

Absent: Calum Stevenson, Ian Stevenson, Kallie Mill.

Treasurer's Report as of June 30, 2022

- It is worth noting the percentage of Revenue given electronically has continued to increase in 2022 from Jan 11%, Feb 23%, Mar 24%, Apr 29%, May 10% (excluding major contributions, May percentage of revenue given electronically was 29.5%), June 29.6%. Number of givers in June: 65 total, 6 visitors, 1 contribution for a memorial service, 3 memorial gifts (1 from a non-member, 2 from regular givers).
- Total expenses in 2022 continue to run just under budgeted expenses, but Net Ordinary Income continues to be troubling. (-\$5,257 in June; YTD Net Ordinary Income -\$2,647).
- **Morgan Stanley interactions with ELCA Mission Investment Fund**

We have been reviewing the interaction between our Morgan Stanley bank assets and our ELCA Mission Investment Fund assets over the 11.5 years MIF has existed. Our Youth account has existed for more than 14 years. It has successfully managed funds raised and spent on our youth activities. It has been quiet since 2019, collecting interest.

- **Employee Retention Credit**

Umpqua Bank brought Employee Retention Credit (ERC) to our attention. Finance Committee is checking this out. We might qualify to apply for credit from certain salaries we paid in 2021 Q1 through 2021 Q3. To qualify, at least one quarter of 2020 Ordinary + Other revenue must be less by 50% than a corresponding quarter in 2019, or one quarter of 2021 revenue must be less by 20% than a corresponding quarter of 2019 (and perhaps 2020). We would have 3 years from a specific event in the past to complete our filing.

- **ELCA Oregon Synod Treasurer request**

The OR Synod Treasurer has requested we increase our benevolence to the Synod by 8% by July through year end. Our annual Outreach Ministry/OR Synod budget is \$21,000/\$1,750 per month. That is 7.26% of our budgeted annual ordinary revenue (\$289,081). YTD we have sent ELCA OR Synod \$10,500 which is 9.49% of our actual YTD ordinary revenue (\$118,560).

If we were to increase Outreach/Oregon Synod by 8%, our monthly giving would increase by \$140 to \$1,890. Six months x \$140 = \$840.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council that we decline the increase in our benevolence to the synod. (This request was discussed and turned down at the annual congregational meeting in January.) Secretary Lynn Danner will write a letter to the synod treasurer explaining our decision.

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

Approval of Minutes The minutes of the Council Meeting of June 28, 2022 are considered approved as corrected and emailed on July 21, 2022. They will be filed for audit.

Pastor's Report

- **Pastoral Acts:** July 11-15 VBS
July 12 Ministerium
- **Upcoming:** August 5, 2022 Joyce Bjorkquist Memorial Service
August 6, 2022 Council Retreat
August 8-14 Vacation (includes 1 Sunday; Intern Alyssa will preside)
August 16, 23, 30 “Stepping Up to Supervision” Continuing Ed (via Zoom,
from Luther Seminary)

Intern's Report

- It has been almost three weeks that Intern Emily has been getting settled in and acquainted with Gloria Dei and the community. She enjoyed participating in VBS, seeing it as a good opportunity to interact with the youth and volunteers.
- She looks forward to participating in “Pride in the Park” next month.
- She'll be preaching for the second time this coming Sunday.

Committee Reports

Lot Committee, Ken Denton

BDA Architects in Eugene are working on a proposal, and they are working with the city on things like access, road improvement needs, etc. I forwarded information about Port-Orford cedar root disease to NHA and they've sent that to the architects. They have a 2' contour map showing all the trees by species and size, and I've warned them it's very unlikely they'll be able to retain any of the Port-Orford cedar. We don't have a time set when they'll have something for us, but we do have an Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for August 12th.

NHA has tracked down the owner of the 50' strip between us and Avamere (Avamere leases their piece) and is trying to get them to deal. (If they are able to acquire that strip, that would increase our project size by 14%).

PRIDE Representative, Ken Denton

Gloria Dei is a sponsor of “Pride in the Park” August 20th, 10 – 3, in Boynton Park, and our logo is on their poster and shirts. GDLC is one of 22 commercial tables present and the \$35 fee is paid.

GDLC is taking the lead on cooking hamburgers, hotdogs, and vegan burgers (and trimmings) for 250 people. NW Natural is loaning us two grills. I have about 8 volunteers so far. We'll be working 3- hour shifts in crews of 5 or 6 people and between this and the table, we could probably use a couple more volunteers.

The Pride weekend kicks off at Front Street Provisioners on Friday evening, 5-8.

Stewardship Committee, Lynn Danner

The Stewardship Committee is planning a Ministry Fair to be held after the worship service on Sunday, November 13. The various ministries of Gloria Dei will be manning tables where participants can learn the particulars of each ministry, ask questions, and consider signing up to offer their gifts and time. Everything is still in the planning stages, but the Stewardship Committee is hoping this event will be an occasion to revitalize our ministries and encourage our membership to become actively involved.

Unfinished Business

A. Continuation of Church Operations during Covid-19

As of July 18, 2022, Coos County's community Risk Level remains at HIGH. After brief discussion, the Council consensus was that we continue with the current policy requiring the wearing of facemasks and observing social distancing with coffee hour held outdoors.

B. Vacation Bible School , Lynn Danner

We had a small number of attendees again this year, but it was a very enthusiastic group! We were blessed with both energetic and inspiring adult leaders as well as older children who helped and participated. VBS sponsored a fundraiser to benefit ELCA World Hunger Global Barnyard. The youth brought in donations each day toward the purchase of bees and beehives for needy people world-wide. The congregation supported this effort with very generous donations, as well, boosting our total donations to over \$224!

C. Update on Progress with Seismic Evaluation and Upgrade Feasibility, Linda Strine

Linda has been in touch with a structural engineer out of Corvallis who offered us valuable advice. After discussion, the consensus of the Council was to thank Linda Strine very much and to authorize her to continue pursuing the feasibility of getting a seismic evaluation of our facility and subsequent grants to fund any needed upgrades.

New Business

A. Proposed Changes to Personnel Handbook re: Background Checks, Richard Whitwer

Richard recently reviewed the Personnel Handbook and made several recommended revisions, especially regarding our policy of performing background checks. He presented his proposed and updated version for the Council's consideration. The Council thanked Richard and will vote on accepting his proposal at the upcoming August meeting. Richard will call a meeting of the Personnel Committee to clean up the finer points of his proposal.

B. Request for Building Use from Coos Sand 'n Sea Quilt Guild

The Council approved in May a request for the quilters to use our sanctuary for a mini quilt show on the Saturday of the Bay Area Fun Festival in September. They have come back to ask for use of the building from 4:00 – 6:00 on the Friday evening before so they can set up. The fee for before or after usage is \$25 and they agree to that fee. Ken moved that we approve this request; James M. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. “Bike the U.S. for MS”

A group of 22 bicyclists who are participating in this fundraiser have asked to spend the night in our parish hall and Sunday School wing on Sunday, August 14th. We have hosted this group a few times in years past. After discussion, James Monsebroten moved that we approve the group's stay, asking them for proof of their liability insurance and their Covid procedures, and that we waive the usual \$30 fee; Lynn Danner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ken Denton will contact the group and see if they want us to invite members to meet the riders that evening.

Miscellaneous/Good of the Order

A. Letters of Advocacy to Legislators Re: Affordable Housing, Linda Strine

Linda reported that she sent three letters urging support of housing and homeless programs in the FY23 budget: one to Congressman Peter DeFazio, one to Senator Ron Wyden, and one to Senator Jeff Merkley. They all acknowledged receipt of the email and on the 19th she received a letter from Senator Jeff Merkley expressing his concerns for the issue. He introduced the Affordable HOME Act (S.2234), “a comprehensive housing bill to reimagine the way we address our housing infrastructure and those who have been most adversely impacted by housing discrimination. It would provide \$45 billion for the national Housing Trust fund for the construction and preservation of affordable homes, \$100 million per year for rural housing development, and would create one million new housing vouchers for low-income households”. The Council thanked Linda for writing these letters on behalf of Gloria Dei.

B. Council Working Retreat/Potluck

The Council discussed plans for a retreat to be held Saturday, August 6th, 10:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m., in the home of Ken Denton. Pastor Alyssa will prepare the agenda for discussion/planning that day.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

August Devotions and Prayer: Debbie Wright

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned with praying the Lord's Prayer at 8:34 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Lynn Danner, Council Secretary