

Council Minutes
November 8, 2022

In attendance: Jay Meservy, Christy Reinking, Catheryn Carlson, Kevin Clarke, Doug Muschett, Ben Little, Pastor Kate Davidson, Lydia Ziauddin, Amie Branson *Excused:* Julie Cope, Craig Bolt, Ruth Hendricks
Guests: Nancy Spears, Dave Domzal (on behalf of Facilities)

1. The meeting opened with a prayer and devotion by Kevin about focusing on the good and holding on to the light.
2. The October council meeting minutes were approved.
3. Pastor reported that the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) to which our congregation belongs – has requested that member congregations contribute a meaningful donation for their ongoing ministry. Discussion ensued about what meaningful contribution might entail; one suggestion was to consider .5% of the church budget (roughly \$1500). There was also discussion about creating and using an open and inclusive welcome statement. Pastor Kate invites suggestions over email both about the amount and the statement. Pastor also asked for the council to approve up to \$60,000 of her salary to be used for a housing allowance next year given the purchase of a new home and furniture. This was approved.
4. Committee Reports:

Worship and Music – Midweek Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer services will take place on Wednesdays during the season of Advent; soup supper will be at 5:30 pm and Holden will begin at 6:30 pm. Christmas Eve services will take place at 5 and 7 pm. The Bell Choir and Vocal Choir are back to their regular programming. A mixed bell choir from Our Lady of Peace and LOTM will share a musical offering at the Interfaith Thanksgiving service on Nov. 13.

Finance – Catheryn reports that we are on track and the finance committee will meet on Mon, Nov. 14. The committee has a proposed budget but will need to finalize several items including staff wages and the RIC donation.

Adult Education – A Table Talk featuring healthcare professionals will be the focus of Sun, Nov 20, as a continuation of the learning of the ELCA's social statement on Healthcare and Healing.

Sunday School – The Sunday School leader is frustrated with lack of attendance and engagement. Pastor Kate and Cindy will meet tomorrow (11/9) to discuss further.

Facilities – (a) the boiler repairman is coming tomorrow (11/9), and (b) the facilities committee has various opinions with regard to repairing or replacing the fellowship windows. (c) A stove oven was donated for the downstairs kitchen; it will cost about \$1200 to wire it. (d) Day Services could be its own autonomous 501c3 with the church as its fiscal sponsor. This may open up the possibility of Day Services receiving grants. (e) Norm from Facilities requests fans in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Kate suggested that fans might also be helpful for the sanctuary. (f) We are planning to update lighting in the parking lot and await a proposal for three fixtures. Amie raised the possibility of using solar energy; it was recommended that Doug and the Green Committee look into this. Kevin suggested different proposals about the fellowship hall windows be brought to the council by the March meeting at which time the council will determine how to proceed.

Personnel – Applications and interviews for the office administrator are ongoing. Interviews will be on hold a few weeks while pastor and personnel chairperson attend to other commitments.

Next council meeting will take place on Tue, Jan 10 at 5:30 pm. Lydia will bring treats; Ben will lead devotions and provide beverages.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Ziauddin