

**MOUNT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 29, 2023**  
**11:45 AM**

**2022 Elected Church Council Members:** Barbara Cranfill (Stewardship), Kevin Churchill (Tech Committee), Brian Fisher (Endowment Committee), Allison Johnson (Worship & Music), Susan Prosser (Property), Rebecca Riley (President, Personnel Committee), Bill Stoll (Secretary, Learning), Evonne Kuchera (Care Team), Tom Neuhaus (Vice President, Service & Missions), Jim Dinges (Adult Education), Kristine Dawson (Fellowship & Welcome), Rick Gardner (Budget & Finance)

**Executive Committee:** Becky Riley (President), Tom Neuhaus (Vice President), Bill Stoll (Secretary), Rick Gardner (Treasurer)

**Representatives:** Wendy McClary- Child Development Center  
Collin Edwards / Sophia Valencia - Youth Group

**Quorum established and meeting proceeded:** 75 members present (35 needed for a quorum)

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by President Becky Riley at 12:45

**Opening Prayer** was led by Pastor Julie Morris.

**A Year in Review Slide Show** put together by Carina McVeigh

**Approval of January 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes:** Randy Churchill moved to approve the minutes. The motion received a second from Lisa Saner. **The motion passed by a voice vote.**

**Child Development Center Report** – Amy Vega and Lisa Saner: CDC became their own entity & created handbook; 78 children are enrolled so they are at max capacity; added Spanish, Dance, and Soccer classes; added new (upgraded) playground.

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor Julie directed people to her written report in the Annual Report Booklet. She expressed her joy in serving as pastor of Mount Cross, her love for the congregation, and her gratitude for the excellent lay leadership in the congregation. She also shared “Mount Cross Story Corps” stories. She frequently hears that people appreciate that we have one service on Sunday mornings with a variety of music. People are spiritually nourished through our worship services. They see children loved and called forward by name. One frequent visitor commented, “Every Sunday feels like Easter at Mount Cross.” She is aware of several stories of gratitude about Mount Cross caring ministries. People who receive care in the form of cards, calls, meals, prayers, or rides to medical appointments often become participants in those caring ministries themselves. She hears from newer members that they are overjoyed to find in Mount Cross and the ELCA an expression of Christianity that is welcoming, centered in God’s grace, fully inclusive, and committed to justice. She noted that Mount Cross should not feel immune to the overall cultural decline in church membership. We need to be alert for creative ways to partner in the community. She announced that this year, for the first time, Camarillo United Methodist Church will join with Mount Cross and St. Columba’s for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services. Pastor Julie articulated two goals for year. First, she wants to work with a team to create an intentional process for welcoming newcomers and preparing them for baptism/affirmation of baptism and church membership. Second, she wants to work with the Care Team to make sure the whole congregation understands itself as part of the Mount Cross caring ministries: “A card, a call, a visit, a meal, a prayer, a ride.” She thanked the congregation, the staff, her husband, Paul, and recognized outgoing Council member, Kevin Churchill and outgoing President, Becky Riley.

**Recognition of RIC Sunday** – a video from Bishop Bos was played.

**Special Recognition** of Rick Mann for his many years of service to the Property Committee

**Treasurer's 2022 Financial Report** – Rick Gardner noted that due to a substantial rise in new members, Mount Cross was in very healthy shape financially.

Balance Sheet for the end of 2022:

Cash assets totaled \$902,822.

Of this amount, the Endowment Fund balance was \$529,862 and dedicated funds were \$179,272.

Cash reserves for year-end were calculated as \$134,655.

The mortgage balance is \$224,895. The original balance was \$744,000. Payoff will be in 2034.

Budget Performance for 2022:

Gross income was \$466,304 (105% of budget).

Pledged giving was \$334,089 (108% of budget).

Expenses were \$497,529 (101.5 % of budget amount of \$490,347).

Net income was \$466,304 - \$497,529 = -\$31,225 (compared to budget amount of - \$47,927).

Analysis:

1. Pledged giving and income were well above budget. Expenses were \$7,000 higher than budget in 2022 (101.5%) due to higher insurance costs, unbudgeted payment of CDC incorporation fees, unplanned installation of a new HVAC system, and higher worship and music costs.
2. The annual loss for 2022 was \$31,225 compared to the budgeted loss of \$47,927. Reserves were down by over \$31,000 in keeping with the annual loss. Despite this loss, reserves continue to be in the healthy range above \$100,000.

Rick Gardner presented the 2023 budget recommended by the Church Council for congregational approval. He provided the 2022 Operating Budget and actuals for comparison. The recommended budget consists of a Funded Budget, drawing from operational funds and dedicated funds. Rick also showed the Funded Budget in narrative format with a pie chart highlighting the following ministries: Worship & Music (31% of budget), Learning & Youth (30%), Service & Mission (22%), and Caring (17%).

2023 pledges are at \$357,004, compared to \$309,765 in the 2022 budget. Total income for 2023 is projected at \$499,740. Expenses for the 2023 Funded Budget are estimated as \$562,300, to be funded by \$499,740 in operational funds and \$51,052 in dedicated funds. In addition, we propose to draw \$11,509 from reserves. Expenses for the 2023 Operating Budget total \$511,249 (\$499,740 plus \$11,509 from reserves).

Rick discussed some expense elements from the budget, most notably Salaries and Benefits, which constitute about 2/3 of the budget. He explained Pastor Julie's proposed compensation as well as that of Joe Zimmerly, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries. Rick also discussed the growing "meal" ministry, consisting of Tuesday night caring meals for the homebound and Wednesday night meals for the confirmation families and others. Associated with the meals is a new expense account associated with the meal preparer."

Rick answered questions:

Question: Did we account for Nat gas increase? - yes

Question: What is current membership? – about 330 (per Pastor Julie)

Question: Secretary (62410) is two employees. Should we separate that? That can be done. In fact, it used to be done that way.

**Action – Motion** made by Tom Neuhaus to approve 2023 Budget (see mountcross.com for the proposed 2023 budget); Motion seconded by Gordon Henry; **Motion Passed by voice vote.**

**Action – Motion** was made to override bylaws “10-day” preview window for slate of nominees (only 7 days given) and proceed with the election by Herb Holler. Motion seconded by Randy Churchill. **Motion Passed by voice vote.**

### **Elections—2022 Nominees**

The following slate of nominees was offered:

· Nominating Committee

- Kevin Churchill
- Lisa Saner
- Patti Stouch
- Becky Riley
- Vicky Edell

Becky Riley asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor for the nominating committee. Seeing no additional nominations, Becky Riley declared the nominations for the nominating committee closed.

· Voting Members to the Synod Assembly

- Allison Johnson
- Vicky Edell
- Kevin O’Farrell

Becky Riley asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor for the nominating committee. Seeing no additional nominations, Becky Riley declared the nominations for the nominating committee closed.

· Mediation Board

- Bev Rueckert
- Jim Prosser
- Carol Broderick

Becky Riley asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor for the nominating committee. Seeing no additional nominations, Becky Riley declared the nominations for the nominating committee closed.

· Endowment/Legacy Giving Committee

- Jim Prosser

Becky Riley asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor for the nominating committee. Seeing no additional nominations, Becky Riley declared the nominations for the nominating committee closed.

· Church Council

- Kris Dawson
- Susan Prosser
- Bill Stoll
- Brian Fisher
- Crissy O’Farrell
- Tracy Blois

Becky Riley asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor for the nominating committee. Seeing no additional nominations, Becky Riley declared the nominations for the nominating committee closed.

**Action – Motion** was made by Jim Prosser to accept the slate by acclamation including the Nominating Committee, Voting Members to the Synod Assembly, Mediation Board, Endowment/Legacy Giving Committee, Church Council as presented. Motion was seconded by Randy Churchill. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **Old Business**

None was brought to the floor.

#### **New Business**

**Action – Motion** was made by Jim Prosser that the secretary turn in minutes for posting on the website ASAP. Motion was seconded by Tom Neuhaus. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**Motion to adjourn** at 1:03 by Randy Churchill. Motion seconded by Tom Neuhaus. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

Closing Prayer & Blessing was offered by Pastor Julie Morris.