



Rooted in God's grace, we joyfully witness and serve.

Core Values

*Intimacy With God
Inspiring Worship
Intentional Faith Development
Compassionate Outreach
Caring Community*

Church Council Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2023, 7:00 PM

2023 Elected Church Council Members	Executive Committee	Voting Representatives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allison Johnson 2. Barbara Cranfill 3. Bill Stoll 4. Brian Fisher 5. Chrissy O'Farrell 6. Evonne Kuchera 7. Jim Dinges 8. Kristine Dawson 9. Rebecca Riley 10. Rick Gardner 11. Susan Prosser 12. Tom Neuhaus 13. Tracy Blois 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bill Stoll (President) ● Tom Neuhaus (Vice President) ● Chrissy O'Farrell (Secretary) ● Rick Gardner (Treasurer) ● Brian Fisher ● Rebecca Riley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wendy McClary- Child Development Center ● Caleb Clem and Tiana Stouch - Youth Group

Call to order

The meeting was on zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by President Bill Stoll.

Council Members Present

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Allison Johnson | 7. Jim Dinges |
| 2. Barbara Cranfill | 8. Rebecca Riley |
| 3. Bill Stoll | 9. Rick Gardner |
| 4. Brian Fisher | 10. Susan Prosser |
| 5. Chrissy O'Farrell | 11. Tom Neuhaus |
| 6. Evonne Kuchera | 12. Tracy Blois |

Representatives Present

1. Wendy McClary

Staff Members Present

1. Julie Morris
2. Joe Zimmerly

Determination of Quorum

(C12.06) majority of members of the council-majority is defined as one over one-half (7).

- 12 council members
- Number of voting representatives present: 1



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- Number of council members and voting representatives present: 13 of 14

Devotion: Led by Tom

Caring Conversation: Favorite Christmas traditions?

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Becky: *“to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2023 meeting”*

- Second by Tom
- The minutes are approved

Acceptance of Consent Agenda

Motion by Brian: *“to accept the consent agenda for December 19, 2023”*

- Second by Becky
- The consent agenda is accepted

Discussion on consent agenda

- Encouraging new volunteers for meal delivery
- Reimagining committee - thank you to this committee for the work devoted to this process!!
- 2022 Mount Cross Audit - thank you to the audit team for work devoted to this year's report!!

Motion

Motion by the Executive Council: *“to make the CDC extended hours pilot permanent.”*

- Discussion:
 - CDC program is full because extended hours are offered
 - One of the functions of the CCC Committee is to address questions, concerns and feedback around the extended hours
 - Next CCC Committee meeting will be in February (Date TBD)
- The motion passed unanimously

Motion

Motion by the RIC Committee: *“to approve the following minor change to the welcome statement...”*



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- Current statement:

Mount Cross Lutheran Church welcomes, embraces, and affirms all individuals, regardless of race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, faith background, physical or mental ability, or anything else that may set us apart from each other. We are a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, one of over 1000 Lutheran communities that intentionally welcome and affirm LGBTQIA+ people and families. **We are committed to racial equality**, celebrating the beautiful tapestry of humanity, and fostering an inclusive community that recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We strive to follow Jesus' way of love, compassion, and justice and invite you to walk this path alongside us. With open hearts and open arms, we welcome *you*.

- *The proposed change is in the third sentence which would then read:* **"We are committed to racial equity and the work of anti-racism..."**
- Reason for the proposed change is the following e-mail from Aubrey Thonvold, the Executive Director of Reconciling Works:

"Thank you for sharing your welcome statement. It is a great start. However, after reviewing it, I did not see the needed language Reconciling Works requires in our RIC Partner Public Commitments naming a commitment to anti-racism or racial equality. You can find all four of the commitments [HERE](#). Once the welcome statement meets the requirements, you will fill out the [RIC Profile Survey](#) which will start the official welcome process in our office.

As you and your community work to make those updates, please let me know if there is anything I or our program coordinator, David Rask Behling, who is included in this email can do for you."

- The four required commitments, which seem to be satisfied by this minor tweak, are: To be recognized as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Partner, your faith community will:
 1. Clearly state a welcome to people of **"all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions"** or **"LGBTQIA+"** and name its commitment to **"racial equity"** or **"anti-racism"** in its welcome statement.



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Anything in bold and quotations above must be included in your RIC Partner Welcome Statement to meet ReconcilingWorks commitments.

- The motion passed unanimously

Motion

Motion from the Endowment Committee to approve: *“To disperse money from 2023 endowment withdrawal as per the chart below (specifically referring to the following: moving screening (\$950), Pastor Discretionary (\$800), music and technology (\$5,000)).*

Endowment Committee Recommendation

Motion 1: To disperse money from 2023 endowment withdrawal as per the chart below		
CATEGORY	AMOUNT	NOTES
PRIOR APPROVALS	\$ 11,900	prior approvals
Movie Screening Fee	\$ 950	Request from Pastor to redirect from movie screening to ministry w/ partner churches
Pastor Discretionary	\$ 800	Request from Pastor Julie to replenish discretionary fund
Music and Technology	\$ 5,000	Request from Carol Browning, all items but the intercom. Transfer money into account #35363. Details of items requested below
	\$ 5,970	hold over until 2024
	\$ 24,620	total available 2023 endowment disbursement

- The motion passed unanimously

Motion

Motion from the Endowment Committee: “we move that:

1. *The \$21,000 Make, Bake, Celebrate proceeds be used to renovate the kitchen. Updates to include plumbing repairs, a new dishwasher and blinds for the Parish Life Center.”*
2. *The \$10,000 Winter Family Gift be used to cover currenting operating expenses*
3. *To utilize the \$200,000 Waldren Family Gifts per the chart below:”*

(\$33,000)	PERPETUAL FUND PROP & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (see list below)
(\$6,000)	PERPETUAL FUND WORSHIP AND MUSIC
(\$8,000)	PERPETUAL FUND MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION
(\$60,000)	GENERAL OPERATIONS FUND



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(\$1,000)	ENDOWMENT FUND
(\$3,000)	WEBSITE REFRESH
(\$89,000)	OTHER IDEAS OR HOLD FOR NEXT YEAR
(\$200,000)	TOTAL WALDREN GIFT RECOMMENDATION
	details or property committee request
4000	Removal of playground trees
2500	Resurfacing of the exterior stairs
1000	Cable troughs outside sanctuary
1000	Pavilion improvements to lighting
2500	Fund other enhancements per ad hoc committee
20000	Relandscape front
2000	Church office improvements, Cecilia workspace

- The motion passed unanimously

Reports

- Staff Report: Pastor Julie – report below
- Staff Report: Joe Zimmerly – report below
- Treasurer's Report: Rick Gardner – report below
- CDC update and report reviewed by council
- Committee liaison updates reviewed by council
- Listening post comments reviewed by council

Upcoming Dates

- *January*
 - Executive Committee Meeting – [January 11th at 7:00pm via Zoom](#)
 - Next Council Meeting – [January 16th at 7:00pm via Zoom](#)
 - Due date for reports – Friday, January 12th (to office@mountcross.com)
 - Upcoming Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 28th, 11:30am
- *February*
 - February Council Meeting (first for new council members) – Saturday, February 3rd, 8:00am - 9:00am



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- Leadership retreat (new council members to join as well) – Saturday, February 3rd, 9:00am - 12:00pm
- New council members installed – Sunday, February 4th, 9:30am service

Meeting Adjourned at 9:07 PM

DEVOTIONS			
FEBRUARY Becky	MARCH Bill	APRIL Susan	MAY Tracy
JUNE Chrissy	JULY Allison	AUGUST Kristine	SEPTEMBER Brian
OCTOBER Barbara	NOVEMBER Evonne	DECEMBER Tom	JANUARY 2024 Jim
COUNCIL LISTENING POST 1st Sunday of the Month on the patio after service			
FEBRUARY Brian	MARCH Susan	APRIL Tom	MAY Jim
JUNE Bill	JULY Becky	AUGUST Tracy	SEPTEMBER Allison
OCTOBER Wendy	NOVEMBER Evonne	DECEMBER Kristine	JANUARY 2024 Barbara

Pastor's Report December 2023 - Church Council Meeting

The Thanksgiving Eve Holden Evening Prayer service went well. Mount Cross hosted the service and pie social. 79 people attended from the three churches (MC, St. Columba's and Camarillo UMC). Jennifer Caldwell, the Chief Development Officer from Food Share, gave the message. We were all humbled to hear her stories of food insecurity in our county. Food Share was the beneficiary of the collection that evening.



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I had a great vacation with my family Nov. 23-30. Thank you to Carol Browning, Deacon Cecelia, and Joe Zimmerly for their extra work in my absence, and to Pastor Scott Maxwell-Doherty for preaching and presiding at Sunday worship on November 26.

Our Advent Theme is "Make Room." If quoting the theme during the week is any indication, it seems to be resonating with people. I appreciate efforts to keep the prayerful and watchful season of Advent and the ways people are trying to slow down and resist the frenetic and consumerist underbelly of "the holidays." As a congregation, we are trying to make room for Christ wherever and however he chooses to arrive for us.

Gratitude to all who attended the Work Day on December 2 and all those, under the direction of the Saner Family, who helped set up the Christmas tree and decorate the church. The pavilion lights and lights on the parking lot island trees (all on timers) are nice additions to our holiday decorations and are a nice sign of joy and welcome to our neighbors. Thank you to Tom LaCalamita Jr. for donating wreaths to add to the pavilion decor.

Our Music Ministry and CYFM offered a lovely Advent/Christmas program on Dec. 10. Special thanks to Carol Browning and Joe Zimmerly for arranging for participation from so many people.

I'm pleased with how our Adult Education programs have gone in this first part of the program year (Men's Bible Study, Women's Bible Study, Rooted, and the Discipleship Experience). **I am looking forward to having as many people as possible read *Love Without Limits* by Jacqueline Bussie in January.** I am thankful that Allison Johnson offered to lead a study group on the book on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning January 10. I encourage others to gather a small group and read the book together. **We will have an all-church discussion of it on Sunday, February 18.**

The CDC Christmas Program on December 14 was delightful! It was wonderful to have our sanctuary filled with our preschoolers and their families. I was happy to invite them all to our Christmas Eve Worship, as well as the Blue Christmas service sponsored by the three churches on Dec. 17.

The CCC (Church and CDC Committee) has come near to finalizing the agreements between the two organizations. I have been working along with Kate LaCalamita, Wendy McClary, Rick Gardner, and Bill Stoll on this.

It was an honor to officiate at Norman Williamsen's burial on Friday, December 15th in Calabasas. It was a simple graveside service celebrating Norman's 95 years of faithfulness to Christ and, even more (as he would want to point out), Christ's faithfulness to him.



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We will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent at our 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 24 and our Christmas Eve service will be at 4 p.m. on December 24.

I will be away with my family December 25 – January 3. Deacon Cecelia will be on call for pastoral emergencies and Pastor Scott Maxwell-Doherty will preside at communion for our Christmas Lessons and Carols service (no sermon) on Sunday, December 31.

Paul and I invite you to stop by an Open House at our home on Epiphany, January 6, anytime between 1-4 p.m. In honor of the Christ Child, we are happily collecting diapers for Redimidos/Our Saviour Lutheran's Graceful Diaper Pantry, so feel free to bring diapers (sizes 6 and 7 are most needed) and wipes, instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Thank you for your service this year, Church Council! I hope and pray you have a deep and refreshing experience of Christ's presence this Christmas.

**Joe Zimmerly - Children, Youth and Family
December 2023 - Church Council Meeting**

December

Sunday's - Youth Selling Cookie Jars
3rd - Advent Wreath Making Event & Potluck
8th - Parent's Night Out
10th - Advent Christmas Program
20th - Christmas Caroling

Treasurer's Report

Budget Performance (through November 2023):

Gross income for November was \$29,723 (71% of budget versus 108% last month).

Gross income YTD was \$409,102 (89% of budget versus 92% last month).

Pledged giving for November was \$21,436 (72% of budget).

Pledged giving YTD was \$314,991 (96% of budget).

Expenses for November were \$39,219 (92% of budget versus 94% last month).

Expenses YTD were \$470,519 (100% of budget versus 101% last month).



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Net income for November was $\$29,723 - \$39,219 = - \$9,496$ (compared to budget amount of $- \$967$).

Net income YTD was $\$409,102 - \$470,519 = - \$61,417$ (compared to budget amount of $- \$10,642$).

Calculated reserves were $\$70,651$ compared to $\$83,915$ in October.

Analysis:

1. There was a sharp drop-off in income in November in contrast to above-budget performance in October and near-budget performance in November 2022. The pledged amount was only 72% of budget, the worst performance we've had since February.
2. Expenditures were lower than budget for the second straight month. For the year, expenditures are running almost exactly on budget.
3. Reserves dropped to below $\$71,000$. In December, we should see a rebound in reserves due to higher holiday giving. If giving is down for the month, we may be seeing a disturbing trend going into the new budget year.