

MOUNT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES JUNE 21, 2022, 7:00 PM

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), Brian Fisher (at large)

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

Call to order: The meeting was held in person and virtually utilizing Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by President Rebecca Riley

Council Members Present: Barbara Cranfill, Brian Fisher, Allison Johnson, ~~Susan Prosser~~, Rebecca Riley, Bill Stoll, Evonne Kuchera, Tom Neuhaus, Jim Dinges, Kristine Dawson, Rick Gardner, ~~Kevin Churchill~~

Representatives Present: Wendy McClary- Child Development Center
~~Collin Edwards - Youth Group~~

Staff Members Present: Pastor Julie Morris, Joe Zimmerly

Determination of Quorum- Six council members plus the Pastor

(C12.06) majority of members of the council-majority is defined as one over one-half
 Number of council members' present 10 of 12
 Number of voting representatives present 1

Devotion: Led by Allison Johnson.

Caring Conversation: Where were you when you felt most connected to God?

Approval of Minutes for May 17, 2022: Motion to approve the minutes made by Rick and seconded by Barbara. **The minutes were approved.**

Action: Motion from Legacy Giving Committee to approve disbursements for 2022. After a brief discussion, the motion passed.

Description Requested Grant Notes Contact	Requested	Grant	Note	Contact
Guest Preachers	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200		Pastor Julie

Live Scan Screening for youth volunteers	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	enhanced background checks for 20 volunteers @ \$100 first year funding due to law change	Joe Z
Start a bus fund	\$ 5,000	\$ -	This is a near term expense. Council needs to prepare for this pending expense	Joe Z
Camp Scholarships	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	Move to designated account	Joe Z
Renovate Playground	\$ 20,000	\$ -	Subject to approval of the project by the property committee	Mark S.
Shipping for Lutheran World Relief Kits	\$ 500	\$ 500		Service and Missions
College Scholarship	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	Jaida Jones	Joe Z
College Scholarship	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	Samantha Ebright	Joe Z
Pastor Discretionary	\$ -	\$ 284		
Church Appearance & Playground & Bus	\$ -	\$ 15,500	Held back by endowment pending more information from council, property and ad hoc master plan committee	
TOTAL	\$ 34,700	\$ 25,484		
4.25% available from fund \$22,984		\$ 22,984		
returned from Travis Davis \$2,500		\$ 2,500		
Grand Total		\$ 25,484		
Difference \$		\$ -		

Action: Motion from Executive Committee to establish a task force to gather information regarding security and emergency/disaster planning. Becky Riley. Allison asked to broaden the consideration to Emergency preparedness as well as active shooter training. Potential committee members include, Jim Dinges, Becky Riley, Jean Kuchera-Sikoff, Todd Ebright. The motion passed.

Information: Rick shared he wants to continue with Heather Edwards and Joan Brundage to gather information on establishing Venmo and Vanco accounts to be presented at the July meeting. Concerns about accounting and confidentiality were raised

Information: Status of Reconciled in Christ program committee. Meeting scheduled for next month

Information: Website design and improvement. Kris Dawson. The group of Kris D, Kevin C and Jim P. have been working on improving the website. The goal is to update and improve the site and work with staff to make it happen. Updates to follow each month

Information and discussion: Recommendation from CCIA to establish replacement reserves. Rick Gardner-

Information: Youth doing Community Service Hours. Pastor Julie. A child from the community, not affiliated with Mount Cross, was looking for service hours. Pastor, Joe and the staff found several projects including the campus work day to utilize his time.

Reports: Reports from Staff, Pastor Julie, Joe Zimmerly
Pastor's Report Summary (full report below)

- Guy, our organist, will be out for a little while
- Jessica Easter is working on a project to the LGBTQ experience in the ELCA church. She is working under the direction of a professor at Cal Lutheran. Data will be shared
- Pastor out for 2 Sundays in July, guest preachers lined up.

Joe's Summary

- 50 kids signed up for VBS, capped at 75
- Eighth Graders confirmed (Reagan Burke, Jeffrey and Marli Saner)
- High School youth hosted midnight madness
- June celebrated graduates
- Joe attended 4 hours of continuing education and applied the lessons to programs
- Hired new Nursery Attendant (Isley Jackson)
- Preschool Graduation
- 5 kids going to El Camino Pines next week
- High School Youth going to Montana in July

Reports: Treasurers Report

Treasurer's Report – 6/21/2022

Budget Performance (through May 2022):

Gross income for May was \$32,196 (87% of budget versus 118% last month).
YTD gross income was \$204,776 (111% of budget versus 117% last month).
Pledged giving for May was \$23,847 (92% of budget versus 124% last month).
Pledged giving YTD was \$158,863 (123% of budget versus 131% last month).
Expenses for May were \$44,903 (110% of budget versus 108% last month).

Expenses YTD were \$202,021 (99% of budget versus 96% last month).
Net income for May was \$-12,707 vs \$3994 budgeted
Net income YTD was \$2756 (compared to budget amount of - \$19,969).
Calculated reserves in May were \$169,021 compared to \$181,848 in April

Analysis and Discussion:

1. Net income in May was well below budget, primarily due to reduced giving and insurance payments. Nevertheless, net income year to date is still in positive territory versus a \$20,000 loss that had been projected
2. Reserves in May fell, matching the loss in net income. Still, the reserves are higher than had been originally projected for this time of year. Reserves are expected to continue declining in the coming months, albeit at a slower rate than experienced in May
3. We currently have \$103,863 in dedicated funds. \$38,925 in perpetual funds and \$22,984 in endowment funds in process. All of these funds are available for expenditure based on their specific restrictions and processes, without impacting the reserve funds.

Reports: Committee Liaisons

- Property Committee- Susan
 - Sponsored Church work day to trim landscape and prep for CDC expansion behind sanctuary
 - CDC plans to purchase new shed from Costco continue. Installation date TBD

Motion to extend the meeting by Brian Fisher, seconded by Tom Neuhaus. The motion passed

Reports: CDC update Wendy McClary. Summer school 23 enrolled, can take 57. 52 students enrolled for next year. Piano in preschool is not getting used. Can we donate it? Consult with Carol, Property and potentially the congregation before donation.

Budget and Finance along with Stewardship continue to explore the concept of a narrative budget.

Care team- continues to provide meals as needed. Grieving presentation went well, more topics to follow. Please invite all to join.

Senior Adult Ministry has an event on July 28

Learning Committee considering a name change to better reflect the work they are doing.

Fellowship Committee- Fathers Day event in church well received

Service and Missions- No report

Executive Session re personnel matter

Motion to move into Executive Session by Tom, seconded by Brian

Information: [Note assignments for Devotions and Listening Post](#)

Information: Next meeting date – July 19, 7:00 pm zoom*

Information: Executive Committee meeting July 7 at 7:00 zoom

For the Good of the Order:

A motion was made by Brian to adjourn at 9:29; Allison seconded. **Motion passed.**

Adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 9:30 PM.

* DEVOTIONS			
FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
Bill	Becky	Susan	Bill
JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Allison	Kevin	Brian	Kristine
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY 2023
Barbara	Evonne	Tom	Jim
** COUNCIL LISTENING POST (1st Sunday of the Month (unless otherwise indicated), on the patio, between services)			
FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Brian	Becky	Susan	Allison
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY 2023
Wendy	Bill	Kristine	Evonne

Pastor's Report for June Council Meeting
May 18-June 21, 2022

This has been a full month at Mount Cross, as all months seem to be. I am grateful for the caring, wisdom, and generosity continuously displayed in our congregation. In addition to my regular pastoral, administrative, and worship responsibilities, this past month I have been involved in synodical (Lutheran) and diocesan (Episcopal) service, tried to lead faithfully in a time of heart-break from national gun tragedies, and been encouraged by the Mount Cross youth, an ELCA study of "Now is the Time", and participation in local interfaith community.

Synod Service: Joe Zimmerly and I were part of the planning team for the Synod Assembly held June 11 in Glendale (and online). Joe was one of the Zoom hosts. I was responsible for working on the "script book" in advance of the Assembly and tracking amendments and new business during the Assembly. My commitment to this project concluded after the Assembly. Thank you to Deacon Cecelia for giving one of the messages at the Assembly, and to our Mount Cross delegates: Melissa Henry, Brian Stouch, and Allison Johnson. Congratulations to Allison Johnson on her election to Synod Council!

Diocesan Service: I was asked to serve on a Commission on Ministry committee on lay ministry for the Diocese of LA, beginning this month. I expect the commitment to be about one year, requiring 5-8 hours each month. The purpose is to strengthen lay ministry and determine avenues of education and licensing for people serving and leading in the Episcopal Church through lay ministries.

Gun Violence: Christian faith demands that we mourn with those who mourn and renounce the powers of evil that seek to destroy the children of God. Along with several Mount Cross members, including two of our newly Confirmed youth, I attended a prayer vigil at Padre Serra Church on May 22 for the victims of the Buffalo, NY shooting. Just two days after that, the Uvalde, TX shooting occurred. We held a family-oriented prayer vigil at Mount Cross on May 26, around the image of a broken heart. Thank you to Joe Zimmerly, Carol Browning, and Amy Vega for their help with the vigil. Our Peace and Justice Team had a table with action steps to help reduce gun violence after Sunday worship on May 29 and June 5. We observed "Wear Orange" Sunday on June 5, along with Pentecost, to bring awareness to gun violence, and I addressed the tragedies in my preaching. Amy Vega asked the Ventura County Sheriff's Department to bring some active shooter response training to the pre-school teachers and opened the workshop up to church members (June 2). Several Church Council members, worship assistants, and church staff attended. It motivated Jeanne Kuchera-Sikoff to volunteer to help set-up a Security Team at Mount Cross.

Encouragement: Even in the midst of tragedy, God provides encouragement. Jeffrey Saner, Marli Saner, and Reagan Burke were Confirmed on May 22. They inspired us with their faith stories and helped us realize what a gift it is to belong to a church with members spanning ten decades. I was also encouraged to learn more about the anti-racist statements and efforts in the ELCA through the 5-part study I completed called "Now is the Time." Locally, the Ventura County Interfaith Community is sponsoring "Interfaith Friendship Groups." I am part of one of

those groups, as are a few other members of Mount Cross. Building relationships across differences of any kind feels especially important now, as we need to counteract the divisiveness plaguing our communities, country, and world. I'm finding it to be joyful and refreshing to meet and learn from people of other faiths.

I will be on vacation July 13-29.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

Pastor Julie Morris