



## Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Council Meeting of April 22, 2019

**Attendees:** Pastor Fritz Wiese, Pastor Miriam Beecher, Don Livingston, Bernice Huie, Holly Monahan, Kevin Hawkins, Marty Hagberg, Dewey Patrick, Molly Breckling, Eric Jakubowski, Robbi Martin, Michael Oliver

**Absent:** Andrea Williams

**Minutes** were circulated via email on April 1. The approval quorum was met on April 2.

**Opening Comments Don Livingston.** Don went over the night's agenda.

**Devotion by Bernice Huie.** Bernice read from Mark 16 that tells the story of the women's visit to Jesus's tomb. *And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us? But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large."* Rev. John Bade, Bernice's brother and a Lutheran minister, wrote about this in his book, Will I Sing Again? Before his death from Parkinson's, Pastor Bade wrote about his personal struggle with this disease. Things that hold us back can become a stone around our neck, but Jesus rolls the stone away. That stone can become the pavement for a new life and Jesus stays with us throughout.

**Questions from Council on Financial Documents Kevin Hawkins.** Operating Fund Analysis:

- March Income \$83,271 was precisely on budget. Offerings were flat to budget (within \$300)
- March Expenses \$85,978 was higher than budget by \$2,185 due to replacement of HVAC unit #7 for \$6,000, partially offset by one staff opening
- March Net Loss (\$2,185) is worse than budget by \$2,707

**Pastor Fritz Update:**

- Becky Lee, director of Connecting Ministry, started on a very positive note.
- People claiming a church home is declined over the last 20 years from 70% to 50%.
- A potential new outreach was discussed. It would be modeled after the Atlanta Bar Church. Line Creek Brewery in PTC was mentioned as a possible location.
- A Thank You dinner is in the planning to celebrate parents who faithfully bring their children to church.
- Pastor mentioned Sarah Juhasz's continuing progress in her studies and program.
- A Synod sponsored April 27 trip to the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Ala. is upcoming.
- The Synod and Lutheran Services of Ga. are working with immigrants who are here legally but have been caught up in the legal system. They find homes and church sponsorships for these families.
- Upcoming events: election of a new Synod bishop, Luther Rock, Luther Road, and VBS

**Pastor Miriam Update:**

- Pastor Miriam discussed Easter services and the very positive comments that were received.
- The Palmetto event and the Palm Sunday service, Last Cry of the Congregation, were much appreciated.
- A scheduling conflict occurred at the church; paperwork for a recital did not make it to the appropriate person.
- The Foundry accepted the terms of the new contract; a church liaison is still needed.
- The Summer Worship schedule begins May 26. Traditional service begins at 9:30 and Contemporary service at 10:50. Regular scheduling returns Aug. 11. The Council agrees with the summer schedule.

**Easter Service Comments:**

Eric commented on the great Easter Service. Pastor Miriam mentioned over 90 Easter bags were passed out to visitors. Mike said the services were overflowing making the count very hard to complete. Dewey commented on the beautiful array of spring flowers at the altar; Robbi was thanked for her beautiful garden inspiration.

**Discussion:** Pastor Miriam's and Sandra Bohlken's guest appearance on *Fayette Woman* podcast was well received. Pastor Miriam talked about all the groups that worship or meet at COS. The host responded with very positive comments

on the welcoming and inclusive nature of COS. Sandra talked about her ministry and sang at the request of viewers and host. Robbi reminded Council that this month's *FW* magazine had an article featuring Pastor Miriam and Sandra.

**Improving Decision Making Check-up Don Livingston.** Molly said their group was good and that she will meet with Rebecca and Pastor Miriam next week. Robbi, Mike, Dewey, and Eric said their groups were ok. Marty said that work on the website is progressing.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **Motion for security cameras for Palmetto property Holly Monahan.**

- **Palmetto Road Security Camera system.** With funding coming from Facility/Operations budget-FY2019 -2020, a motion to install Security Camera system at Palmetto Road at an estimated cost of \$7000 is requested.

**Motion:** The Director of Operations is authorized to purchase and have installed security cameras at the Palmetto Road property to take place in the FY2019-2020 fiscal year budget. The motion was made by Don and seconded by Mike.

**Discussion:** Budgetary concerns were raised. We discussed not leaving expensive items on the property.

**Decision:** The motion was defeated with two abstentions.

#### **New Business Top 8 Priorities + Facilities:**

**Maintain COS Main Campus & Palmetto Holly Monahan.** Two Sparrows Village hopes to build an inclusive community for people with disabilities. Their initial plan includes a Respite Care Center, Day Center, and Community Center. Housing options would follow. They have expressed interest in leasing the property. Fayette County zoning prohibits this type of housing and development. Tyrone must annex the property before Two Sparrows Village can begin talks with land developers.

**Motion:** COS to further discussion by having Derrick Jackson to speak with Tyrone's Mayor about annexation. The motion was made by Don and seconded by Holly.

**Discussion:** COS has previously requested the town of Tyrone to annex the Palmetto Road property. Derrick Jackson is asked to speak to Tyrone's mayor about initiating annexation; Dewey said it was in our best interest to request annexation. The church would have access to city services for water and sewage, as well as, police protection.

**Decision:** The motion was approved unanimously.

**2020 Budget Kevin Hawkins:** Kevin discussed the Finance Committee's draft process. Three drafts were generated before the vote on the Final Draft, which includes a deficit of \$60,000.

**Discussion:** Concerns were discussed. Marty commented that recently we haven't done a balanced budget and Don said we passed deficit budgets for the past 3-4 years. On-line giving was mentioned. Bob Davis Blackburn notifies people who may not be aware when their on-line giving has stopped.

**Discussion:** Kevin said the only two places to reduce spending are Operations and Personnel. Pastor Fritz said that COS continues to support the Synod's Benevolence fund with a tithe. Pastor Miriam said the Final Draft does not include funding for the professional musician for Contemporary service. The Dedicated Offering Fund and the Restricted Fund were mentioned. Kevin described how these are accessed and funded. He also said that new people coming into the church can compensate for others leaving. Pastor Fritz said that first, the budget is made and then the creative ministry happens. The church receives gifts throughout the year increasing income. Mike spoke about a faith-based budget. Pastor Miriam mentioned on-the-floor fundraising that paid for an intern in the past.

**Discussion:** over the cutting the funding for the Contemporary Service musician position ensued. Robbi said that better music may draw higher attendance; adding a more professional air could foster that growth. The Final Draft was changed to include moving forward with the addition of this position.

**Motion:** Motion to reduce Facilities budget for FY2020 to \$257,332.00, increase Personnel Expense by \$7,500 to pay for 2<sup>nd</sup> paid musician position for Contemporary Service, which increases the deficit budget by \$4,463, now \$64,367. The motion was made by Don and seconded by Robbi.

**Decision:** The motion was approved unanimously.

**Next steps on budget process.**

- **Q&A meetings on May 5 (Sanctuary 9:45 am) & May 12 (Choir room 9:45)** Kevin Hawkins and John Musil, Finance Chairman, will lead. Don requests that other Council members attend.
- **May 19 Congregation Meeting to Approve.**
- **Communication of Budget Process:** Kevin and John Musil are asked to prepare the most salient points of the budget that Council needs to convey to membership.

**Stewardship Eric Jakubowski.** Eric discussed best practices for church Stewardship and the next Stewardship campaign.

**Discussion:** Messages/letters tailored to member giving were discussed. Pastor Fritz mentioned various approaches. Don said that this could be discussed next month.

**Closing Prayer:** The Lord’s Prayer

**Next meeting agenda items:**

- Attendance recap for 2019 Don Livingston.
- Stewardship Campaign Eric Jakubowski.

**Next Council Meeting – May 20.** NOTE – *May meeting will be on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> due to Memorial Day.*

**Offering Count Schedule**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNT SUPERVISOR</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNT SUPERVISOR</b>
May 5	Oliver	June 9	Jakubowski
May 12	Williams	June 16	Oliver
May 19	Patrick	June 23	Huie
May 26	Martin	June 30	Martin
June 2	Breckling	July 7	Williams