

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Vision Council Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2023

Present: Pastor Dave Mesner, Jess Kramer, Seth Loeffler-Kemp, Lauren Nyenhuis, Sara Hendrickson, Dave Larsen, Tim Kreft

Not Present: Cole Peterson, Karen Pagel-Guerndt, Cyndi Venberg

Welcome/Meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

Devotions – Tim Kreft

Approve Minutes for [Vision Council Mtg. Minutes 10-30-23](#)

Sara Hendrickson motioned to approve; Seth Loeffler-Kemp seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report for November- Dave Larsen

- Budget Committee will meet Dec. 18.
 - November was another good month in that income was \$4,458 higher than expenditures. Income was stronger than projected, at \$48,655 (our largest monthly income this year).
 - Monthly expenses were also the highest of any month this year at \$44,196. There is nothing unexpected here, but we caught up on synod benevolence from October, and it includes our quarterly insurance premium payment.
 - Year to date, our income is slightly above our budget, which is unusual in a good way. Our YTD expenses are still below budget, so our year to date “surplus” is \$19,293.
 - Dave Larsen does not anticipate any unusual expenses, so we ought to end 2023 with a surplus above \$20,000. He suggests that we move whatever surplus we have at year end into the Operating Reserve line on the “back page”. A three month operating reserve is considered prudent, and we will still be less than half way there.
- 2024 budget considerations:**
- Even though we will end the year close to or above budgeted income in 2023, our income year to year has not kept up with inflation.
 - The money we are not spending on a second pastor, and under-spending on some part time positions, has allowed us to increase other compensation, and absorb increased utility and other costs, in 2023, and still have a surplus.
 - In 2024 and beyond, we will need to work to balance increased costs with income that doesn't promise to increase at the same rate. It seems probable that our pledged 2024 income will be similar to 2023.
 - We also may lose all or some of the \$12,000 rental income that we received in 2023 from VLM. Their interim director and governing board are looking to cut costs and have not determined their best office location given the changes in their office staff. We're on a month to month basis starting this month (December).
 - The budget committee is meeting this month to develop a draft budget, which will go through the Resource Development, and be presented to the Vision Council in January.
 - Seth L-K motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report for October and November; Lauren Nyenhuis seconded. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Water Heater Update- Dave Larsen

- A bid has been accepted for around \$30,000 for a new water heater.

Sanctuary LED Screen/Monitor Update- Seth Loeffler- Kemp

- Seth will meet with with Brian Fischer this week to discuss.

LCGS Website Update- Seth Loeffler- Kemp

- Amy Ugstad will be doing the church website for \$2,500 (local and lowest bid).
- Next steps- Set up a meeting with anyone who contributes to the website so the process will go more smoothly the first meeting with Amy.
- Where would this expense fit in the 2024 budget? Office Administrative Budget/Technology

Preparation for Annual Meeting- Pastor Dave

Reports

Proposed Budget process

- Requests from teams
- Financial stewardship projections
- Finance Committee meets to develop initial Proposal (**12/18**)
- Resource Development Team receives Finance Proposal (**1/17 at 6 pm**); forwards updated Proposal to VC
- VC meets (**1/18 at 5pm**), finalizes 2024 Proposed Budget
- VC hosts congregational forums 1/21 and 1/28 (also another time?); presents Proposed Budget, possibly makes adjustments
- Congregation adopts 2024 Budget at 2/4 Annual Meeting

Nominating Committee recommendations

VC positions: eligible for re-election; suggestions for Nominating Committee

- Seth LK will be eligible for a 3-year position, and there will be 2 other positions open. Sara Hendrickson and Tim Kreft will be leaving.
- Ideas: Reach out to RIC committee. Ask Katie to think about Sunday School Families/Confirmation families. Look at recent New Member Classes.

Reconciling in Christ recommendation

- Wording for the proposed Amendment: Reach out to our community and welcome everyone, *especially including individuals who have been absent or excluded from our traditional church culture, BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ people.*
- Lauren Nyenhuis motioned and Sara Hendrickson seconded the following:
 - Seth will contact Eric Kaiser and ask him to summarize the steps that have been taken towards becoming a RIC congregation as well as the purpose of the proposed amendment. This information will then be publicized in the newsletter and bulletin and mailed directly to members from the Vision Council. The mailing will also publicize the forums and the annual meeting.
 - The motion unanimously passed.

Liaison Reports:

- Experiencing God LT: Seth Loeffler-Kemp (12/4/23 meeting)
 - Increase in Linda Turpening's salary as we prepare for her to leave the organist/pianist position

- Increase in choir director (currently Debbie Sanders, who is not accepting salary)
- Request funding for a Director of Music Ministry (supplemental Music Experience)
- Decrease in line item 5620 “music” from \$8,000 to \$5,000.
- Christmas Eve will be contemplative candlelight service (2:30, 4:30, 10:00); Christmas Day will be 9:30
- January 23- all team meeting
- Reaching Out LT: Cyndi Venberg
- Nurturing Faith LT: Jess Kramer, Lauren Nyenhuis, Tim Kreft
- Resource Development : Cole Peterson (Memorial Funds), DaveLarsen, Pastor Dave (Offering Our Lives, Stewardship), Karen Pagel-Guerndt
- Endowment Fund Board: Lauren Nyenhuis and Sara Hendrickson
 - Meets on Wednesday 12/13/23

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Dave

- Pastor Dave has invited Joel Abenth to preach several times in the future.

Plan VC Meeting Dates/Times for Fall 2023

- January 18, 5:00pm (Review Proposed Budget)
- January 21, 10:45am Congregational Forum
- January 28, 10:45am Congregational Forum
- February 4, 10:45am Annual Meeting

Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Jess Kramer, Secretary, LCGS Vision Council