



First Evangelical Lutheran Church Galveston

January 2019 Church Council Meeting Minutes

We Gather as God's People

1. Lighting of the Candle - 4:57
2. Sharing of Highs and Lows
3. Devotional: Anthony Grizzaffi - ELCA Daily Devotional featuring Psalm 106 : 1-12

We Gather Needful Information

1. Roll call for attendance - all present, guest Ron Hanson
2. Approval of Minutes of November 2018
 - No changes noted, Albert moved to approve the minutes from November 2018. Kay seconds the motion. The motion passes.
3. Pastor's Report
 - Community Team needs to consider a formal dismissal at this time.
 - LMA is being recognized as the go-to music education on the Island.
 - LMA Board asked if they will they get any money from Oktoberfest. Ads said LMA and Feed Galveston said they would. Anthony stated we need to get a number from profits from Oktoberfest.
 - Lyceum was recognized by the TheWire.com.
 - Pastor Rabel's family is bringing photographs from the church during his time of service.
 - Leadership Development - we need to equip our members to grow and engage in ministry.
 - LEAD team has 3 people on it.
 - Dolf Tillotson, Stephanie Fischer and Anthony will start the team.
 - Renewal of music ministry - choir is struggling.
 - Should we have a choir or do we need one?
 - Choir is at 9:00 on Sunday and all council members were encouraged to try.
 - The building is still a concern.
 - Tri-theological conference is coming up and we are expecting 200 church leaders.
4. President's Report
 - FEMA claim is moving, though it is moving slowly.

- Texans seasons tickets
 - We are trying to sell the ticket license for \$50,000. If they don't sell this year, we will try selling them per game in a way other than Ticketmaster. We used Ticketmaster this year, but didn't make the profit we had hoped.

5. Financial Officer's Report

- Has been wrapping up the year.
- There are some oddities with the Lyceum taxes, once the IRS is back to full staff hopefully we can get the answers we need to move forward on cleaning up the taxes.
- We need to get money from the Lyceum.
 - Do we need to make a statement that requires a payment? This should also happen with LMA if it happens with Lyceum. It could look like an Administrative Fee, Rent or something of that nature.
 - LMA is dependant on grants.
 - Ron brought the list of bookings for 2018 and 2019, and it looks like 2019 is going to be another busy year. Lyceum gave \$6,000 this year, and we paid \$17,489.41 in utilities for them. We will resume conversation during budget conversation
- Please see attached for account updates.
- Ron asked about the Endowment Fund and brought us back to the conversation about the missing enabling documents of the Endowment Board.
- Kay made a motion to approve the Financial Officer's report. Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed.

6. Action Items from Directors

- Fred Huddleston
 - Community Connections
 1. Anthony will talk to Kurt about dissolving the group.
 - Evangelism
 1. Meeting 6:30 Thursday, January 30th and they would love to have Council present.
 - Missions
 1. Working on calendar for year.
- Kay Fritz Stafford
 - Worship
 1. They plan ahead which is good.
 2. Rick asks about attendance. Attendance was up by about 100 for Christmas services.
 - Faith Formations
 1. Going well, list online for sign up.

- Archives

1. Our historical Jesus statue is still being repaired.

- Norbert Kurtz

- Property

1. Zach with Zach's Roofing and Construction was supposed to start working on the roof today, however predicted rain made him decide to postpone until the weather clears up a bit.
2. AG and Norbert met with Sherwin Williams and they decided not to move forward with them for the interior painting.
3. Pews need to be replaced. He is looking into getting used ones. Ours are particle board and once they are pulled out and put back in the sanctuary after the new floors they will not be in good condition.
4. Flooring as also been talked about. Thin, cork flooring is being considered again. Spray on covering for concrete is also being talked about.
5. New Roof, new flashing, counter-flashing and sealing the limestone will be next for the exterior.
6. There was a discussion about property team doing the coating of the limestone versus the hiring of a contractor. FEMA will not cover roofs or stone sealing.
7. Norbert's goal is to dry off the Sanctuary of the church.
8. Rick asks about a chart to lay out priorities and plans. Norbert says the plan is: pews, ceiling, walls.

- Stewardship

1. Joe is moving along.

- Parish Life

1. Kitchen got cleaned, but they need to get rid of ice machine in kitchen.

7. Old Business

- Discussion of 2019 Congregational Budget

- Rick shows Spreadsheet that breaks down our spending and income.
 1. Tithes were at 95% this year.
- Oktoberfest never gave a second check, but we were behind a \$45,000 of budgeted donation.
- Lyceum was \$4,000 short on anticipated income.
- Endowment would not be covering IT Services or lessening the amount given from last year. He is going to check the minutes before the

congregational meeting to see what their decision was. Endowment needs to decide on music director grant.

- Other Income - Oktoberfest has a board meeting on Thursday at noon. Donations to Feed Galveston and Thrivent will not be listed on spreadsheet we distribute.
- Miscellaneous line will be made.
- Facility Cost is going to be applied to LMA in 2019 and Lyceum.
- Operating Expenses - shouldn't change from actuals in 2018.
- Online Giving - we could look at another service in the near future to cut the cost of our online payment processing.
- We will add money to adult classes, but some of the money will be cut from some youth programming funds.
 1. The number will stay the same for overall in Faith Formation. Youth money will stay the same so that new employee will have something to work with when they start.
- We are anticipating to get a grant of 10,000 for the homelessness task force.
- Property Board - SBA loan was not anticipated on 2018 budget so we now can see it.
- Property Maintenance - Ron asks who talks to our electricity provider. We might be considering a different provider this year.
- We did not spend money with Brick and Mortar so we cancelled it out.
- Lyceum - We will need to check when the current contract goes out on elevator contract. We want to look into EMR- new business in Galveston.
- Flower line item is being created on income and expense.
- Employees - new position needs to go into budget - Minister of Missional Community - \$50,000. That money has already been put into our Designated Funds.
- Terri needs to develop agenda for meeting. Julie will make a book of what everyone needs to know.
- Approval of 2019 Congregational Budget.
 - Kay makes a motion to accept the 2019 budget proposal. Norbert seconds the motion. The motion passes.

8. New Business

- Pastor gets 5 paid weekends off per year, but missed one in 2018 because of no substitute being able to cover for him. He needs to get an additional weekend off in 2019.

- Anthony makes motion to grant him 6 weeks of vacation in 2019. Kay seconds the motion. The motion passes.

We Gather Discerning God's Direction at First Lutheran

1. Where do we perceive God is nudging us (going well)?
 - a. What might we need to reconsider (not going well)?
 - b. What is something new we perceive God is prompting us to consider?

We Prepare to Depart

1. What do we need to communicate to the Congregation?
 - a. We are finalizing the report for the congregational meeting next Sunday, 1/27.
 - b. The property board is moving forward with repairs. They have a roofing contractor who started this week.
2. Call for volunteers to relay notes to the Congregation
 - a. Rick or Anthony will deliver them on Saturday. Terri will deliver them on Sunday.
3. Reminders of items to be followed up on
 - a. We need to vote on ice machine being sold or thrown out.
4. Closing prayer for the Congregation
5. Lord's Prayer

Next Church Council Meeting is January 27th following worship. It is the Annual Congregational Meeting.