



First Evangelical Lutheran Church Galveston

October Church Council Meeting Minutes

We Gather as God's People

10/8/2018

1. Lighting of the Candle - 5:00
2. Sharing of Highs and Lows
3. Devotional: Fred Huddleston

We Gather Needful Information

1. Roll call for attendance
 - Rick Watkins, Albert Choate and Julie Agee absent
 - Ron Hansen visited.
2. Approval of Minutes of September 2018
 - Anthony makes a motion to approve minutes, Norbert seconds. Motion passes.
3. Pastor's Report
 - Pastor challenges council to look beyond finances and the buildings. LEAD is Friday and Saturday and he feels we could really benefit from attending. Kay, Fred, Pastor and Terri have registered.
 - He spoke with the donor for the new staff position and they will be working toward a 200,000 goal for position.
 - Pastor poses a question about opening a line of credit through a bank. Norbert suggests finding a set amount annually to help through the summer to lessen the burden of the debt perhaps from the Capitol Appeal.
 - Rick called in at this moment, so Pastor runs these credit suggestions by him about how much the amount needs to be. For the conversation please see below at the Financial Director's Report.
4. President's Report
 - He gives us a brief report on the repairs. There have been 2 change orders: the stairs to the choir loft and the ceiling in the choir room were left off the original report. The company will do the choir room for free.

- The abatement team is on schedule to be out of the sanctuary on 10/15. The windows will be repaired in Pastor's office. The sanctuary will need to be cleaned once everything is done.

5. Financial Officer's Report

- We are running at massive deficit.
- Rick suggests using an outside line of credit. Ron asks about our average needed amount monthly. Rick says it's about \$45,000 per month.
 - Pastor asks about outlying expenses. Rick replies there are interests on loans, elevator repair, seasonal electricity that we hadn't prepared for. Rick will send us all the report outlining expenses.
- He voices some thoughts on the Lyceum. He would like to ask them for a specific amount. We have received 2 \$3,000 checks from them.
 - He would like to ask them specifically for what we need, say about \$9,000. Ron suggests getting with the treasurer of the Lyceum.
 - He doesn't have accounts for LMA, so he doesn't know what's in it. But Anthony says Joe Conciencie is working on it. We need to have a better overhead cost for LMA.
 1. Ron will talk to treasurer for LMA.
 - We are not current to the Endowment Board at all. He's going to start an email dialog about cutting expenses.
 - Anthony talked to Nole about applying for the Moody Grant.
 - Discussion continues about financial imbalance. Norbert suggests cutting cleaning crew and makes a strong case. They don't cost a lot, but we are behind and he feels property board and congregation would step up.
 1. Norbert then brings up AirBnB discussion with the Lyceum, but Ron says it's not something they can truly do. Ron said there are great sites he'll send to Norbert.

6. Action Items from Directors

- Fred Huddleston
 - Community Connections
 - Evangelism
 1. Working on Neighborhood report.
 - Missions
 1. Feed Galveston went well.
 2. Blanket and Coat Drive this month.
 3. Preparing next year's calendar.
- Kay Fritz Stafford
 - Worship
 1. Kay asks about bulletins.

2. Pastor says they want to try a new size. They will be printed on 11X14 this week.

- Faith Formations

1. She wasn't very confident in the Sunday School changes.

- Archives

1. Fred gave talk last month that went really well.
2. Jesus statue has been picked up to be cleaned up.

- Norbert Kurtz

- Property

1. We've pretty much discussed property.
2. Anthony will call Brickman tomorrow. Norbert will start getting bids from painters. He is looking for suggestions of trustworthy painters with crews.

- Stewardship

1. Joe Concienne wants people to sign up for the Principals of Stewardship temple talks. Carlos and he are really pushing conversations forward.

- Parish Life

1. Not going on right now.

7. Old Business

- Further discussion about the new youth position.
 - Terri asks when we will post position to start conversation.
 - Position will offer \$50,000 including benefits annually for 3 years. There will be no expenses from the church for the new position.
- Revisit Garlic Emulsification business and make decision
 - Pastor will email phone number to Anthony for him to call the person who posed the question. Norbert mentions the cost to run this business. Pastor says the initial conversation seemed more like she was trying to find out what she would need to do

8. New Business

- Resolution of positions up for re-election.
 - Pastor says there may be a different path forward. We weren't clear on who were the 2 year and 3 year members when new members were nominated. We have two options this year: no election this year or put two positions up to election.
 1. Anthony will call Albert and have a conversation on this topic.
 2. Either resolution needs to be communicated to the congregation.

9. Executive Session

- There was discussion about the need for enabling documents from our 501c3s and the church Endowment Fund.

We Gather Discerning God's Direction at First Lutheran

1. Where do we perceive God is nudging us (going well)?
 - a. Things are moving along with work in the sanctuary. The abatement company is on schedule.
 - b. We've come so far in the past year.
 - c. Terri adds that children's church is going really well.
2. What might we need to reconsider (not going well)?
 - a. Finances, but we're working on it.
3. What is something new we perceive God is prompting us to consider
 - a. Pursuing the new staff position.
 - b. The leadership role of missional questions.

We Prepare to Depart

1. What do we need to communicate to the Congregation?
 - a. We are behind on paying our bills, if you can put extra into the general fund that would help immensely.
 - b. There will be no expenses from the church for the new staff position.
 - c. Abatement is on schedule to end before Oktoberfest. We will need volunteers to help with clean up after they finish and before we move in.
 - d. The mission team is hosting a blanket and coat drive, so please help with that if able.
2. Call for volunteers to relay notes to the Congregation.
 - a. Kay will do Sunday, Norbert will do Saturday.
3. Reminders of items to be followed up on
 - a. Anthony will follow up with the previously mentioned companies before our next meeting.
4. Closing prayer for the Congregation
5. Lord's Prayer

Next Church Council Meeting is November 12th at 5:00.

Pastor Rhoades will have the devotional.