

**SAINT LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**January 22, 2024, 6:00 pm - \*Zoom Only**

*(\*Due to poor weather conditions.)*

*(This meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by President, Marty Schmidt.)*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Violet Brooks, Phil Denton, Marsha Fey, Katy Forand, Kathy Herron, Donovan Larson, Marty Schmidt, and Barbara Smith, plus Rev. Vicki Hampton/ex-officio & Rev. Merrimon Boyd/ex-officio || Eleven members.

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Bill Brinkhorst & Joy Dressel, Dan Herron, and Ellen Littleton

**OPENING PRAYER:** The meeting was opened with a prayer by Marty Schmidt.

**GUEST COMMENTS:** None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A.V. Ministry - December 6, 2023 Minutes
- Council Meeting - December 18, 2023, Minutes
- Council Meeting | Executive Session - December 18, 2023, Minutes
- Preschool Board - December 12, 2023, Minutes
- Finance Ministry - December 14, 2023, Minutes

Barbara moved to accept and Kathy seconded that the January 22, 2024 Consent Agenda be received as submitted. The motion was accepted unanimously.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Pastor Vicki** - Nothing to add from Pastor Vicki; Kathy asked about her comment regarding possible returning members. There is a couple whom Kathy & Dan Herron are familiar with. The indication from Pastor Vicki is that those friends will be returning to St. Lucas UCC.

**Pastor Merrimon** - Nothing to add from Pastor Merrimon; no Council questions, his written report stands.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

As the new Financial Secretary for 2024, Wanda Gillman advised the following information for December 2023 and some of January 2024 -

- Wanda advised the names of the 2024 Finance Committee members: Marsha Fey, Wanda Gillman, Donovan Larson, Jack Laudenslager, Marty Schmidt, Sue Simmons, Carol Stelmach, and Jeff Wagener.
- The upload of the new Realm Accounting Software occurred on 1/8/24. Jeff reported to the team that a few corrections were needed and that training was scheduled to occur that same week. Because of this installation December 2023 and other 2023 activities have ended. Any outstanding activity from 2023 (i.e. offerings, PET distribution, etc.) will be recorded after 1/8/24 in the January financials in the new software program. FYI - there were four generous offerings received in December totaling almost \$40K. That will be reflected in the January activity. Also, the Foster's rent received in December will be posted in January as well.

- The Missions account was increased due to the approval of the reinstatement to 2022 amounts at the November annual meeting. The overall budget amounts were not adjusted as the decrease in the ERC money reflects the increase in Mission giving.
- Repair and Maintenance accounts show an expense increase due to the resurfacing of the Preschool parking lot, plumbing and sewer issues at the parsonage, and maintenance and upkeep of the sports fields.
- The Backpack Program has an increase of more than double what they experienced from the prior year.
- Finally, the Senior Pastor pension is shown as zero due to the double payment made for that account in November.

Wanda asked for questions. There were none. Because of the activity mentioned tonight, Marty commented that January will show a strong start for the new year.

### **Physical Facilities Ministries:**

Donovan presented the following information to the Council -

- There was no meeting in December, so there were no minutes to submit this month.
- There were various maintenance issues in the Parsonage. Specifically, HVAC filters or dampers. A unique door knob situation that needed replacing which will result in a bill from Beishir Locks for approximately \$500.
- Roofing repairs and the sealing of the main parking lot are still on track for work to be completed this Spring. Night time temps need to be 40-45F above for the parking lot work. Donovan is hoping for early spring for the roofing work. Bottom line he's expecting March/April for both projects.
- There is still ongoing discussion regarding camera surveillance around the preschool and the pavilion that Donovan is attempting to coordinate with the Preschool and the Cemetery Board.
- We may need to be looking at a new creche decoration as some of our pieces have been glued together and some pieces are missing. This time of year we may be able to find something on sale at a reduced price. But for this year it is now back into storage.
- Bev Hood has undertaken the collection of broken artificial Christmas trees as well as broken holiday lights so they don't end up in the landfill.
- Plus there is an ongoing conversation about the increased fees for trash hauling for the church, so that is on his list of items to review.

Marty asked for questions for Donovan. Katie asked if anyone from the Cemetery Board had been in touch with Donovan about the pavement work they are planning for the cemetery this year. Donovan answered no. Katie will scan the estimate they received from the same paving vendor the church will be using. He will coordinate with them. Vicki asked if there's any need to have a discussion with the Victory Garden people for coordination in the event they will have any supplies delivered in the spring. Donovan will contact them to discuss this. Marty reminded Donovan that we also need to be aware of the sports teams playing in the spring and if their games will be affected by the paving schedule.

Violet took the opportunity to bring up the spring sports contracts she is working on right now. She's looking at increasing the fees this year. Donovan was remembering that we would increase the rates by 50% in 2024. And then another 50% increase for the following. Marty made a motion to allow an increase to an hourly rate of \$12 for the 2024 sports contracts. Wanda seconded that motion. There was a unanimous vote to accept that rate. Phil brought up the question of when the decision was made and how the \$12 rate was arrived at. A brief

discussion continued about the expense of maintaining the fields versus the monetary return of those fields. He would prefer to see the money spent on the fields be put toward an actual mission purpose. In addition, he would still like the opportunity to review the contracts we use to be sure the church is adequately protected. Marsha added there is some mission work involved here. Especially when the concession sales are there. They are well received as a good-will effort. Violet added the maintenance expense versus income received has always been balanced. It was not until this past year when Lindbergh requested additional maintenance to improve the quality of the fields that fee increases were discussed. Vicki suggested that Phil, Donovan, and Marty continue the discussion offline. Marty agreed. He also asked Violet to share a contract with Phil for his review. Vicki also reminded them copies of all contracts should be kept in the office files. Violet confirmed they are.

Regarding coordination, Marty asked if there is any plan for coordinating cameras. Donovan answered nothing currently, just that the church, the preschool, and the cemetery are all interested in purchasing cameras. The technical degree and price of the equipment still need to be determined. Donovan will be working with both groups to discuss how to coordinate and move forward.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

>Open & Affirming Task Force - Barbara Smith advised their last meeting was January 2nd. The next meeting is January 31st. The group is still progressing through the workbook named Building an Inclusive Church. This is helping the group to become trained at working on one-to-one dialogue with church members. We are shooting for -at a minimum- a monthly meeting. Marty added the book Unclobber being used by the task is a very interesting read.

>Accounting Software Update - Pastor Vicki advised the installation was essentially seamless. The church was up and running after 2-3 days. The preschool and cemetery were up and running within 24 hours. Training will start this week.

>Land Use Task Force - Marty has nothing new to report from this group. Once he is released from the doctor after his surgery he will have more ability to speak to Cape Albion.

>Choral Area Changes - Again, Marty has nothing new to report from this group. Once he is released from the doctor after his surgery he will have more ability to get back on track. Marty asked Pastors Vicki and Merrimon if they are aware of anyone within the conference office who may have an architectural contact to assist us with our plans down the road. Vicki will ask Mary Nelson, the transitional Conference minister.

>PET Trustees - Marty has received a copy of their January minutes. He sent them a letter after the November congregational meeting advising that the congregation has requested that the trustees review and request legal advice to bring the trust up to current UPMIFA guidelines. That was discussed at their January meeting and they did approve the request. It is the path they'll pursue. Plus he speaks often with Bill Biedenstein. He is confident things will progress.

>Bridge Senior Minister - No movement yet. Rev. Damien Lake, Associate Conference Minister for the Missouri Mid-South Conference is well aware of our need for a Sr. Bridge minister effective 4/15/24. Marty has been given some names of possible candidates from some congregation members that he will discuss with Pastor Vicki.

Marty asked for any other Old Business from the group. There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

>Misc Council Questions - Barbara asked for a list of the Council Liaisons discussed at yesterday's retreat. Marty will send that to her. Barbara asked permission to post the Council Conversation from 12/18/23 to the Executive Session portion of the webpage. Marty agreed that is acceptable.

>Upcoming Dates - All meeting dates in 2024 will fall on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 pm as usual, with the following two exceptions: (1) The fourth Monday in May is Memorial Day. Therefore, the May meeting will be held one week earlier on May 20th. (2) The fourth Monday in December is the 23rd. Marty feels the best date for that meeting is Monday, December 30th. Marty also asked Pastor Merrimon about the date of Confirmation this spring. It will be held on May 19th. Therefore, the Semi-Annual meeting will be held on May 5th so it doesn't conflict with Mother's Day or Confirmation. In addition, the Annual meeting will be held on November 10, 2024.

>Other New Business - Marsha asked if A.V. Support is included in the cost of the hall rental. A requirement of renting our hall is that the group needs to first meet with Charlie for a discussion of what items are available for their use, and the expectation of the condition of St. Lucas UCC space once an event is finished. If A.V. is needed for that group they'll need to meet with our A.V. people to discuss what is available to them. That is something that was not mentioned in the original hall rental discussion. Plus it was agreed tonight that our A.V. people should not be expected to work an event for an outside group. Marty will add these comments in the rental agreement.

\*NOTE - This ended the Public Session of the January 2024 Council meeting.

*(Minute marker: 59 minutes)*

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Smith,  
Recording Secretary