

**SAINT LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CHURCH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
October 28, 2024, 6:00 pm - Zoom Hybrid/Room 19**

*(This meeting was called to order at \*6:06 pm by Vice-President, Katy Forand.)*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Phil Denton, *Marsha Fey/Zoom*, Katy Forand, Wanda Gillman, Kathy Herron, Donovan Larson, and Barbara Smith. || Seven members. *(Absent - Violet Brooks & Marty Schmidt)*

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Bill Brinkhorst & Joy Dressel/Zoom, Bill Biedenstein/Zoom, Shirley Bild/Zoom, Joan Dalgaard,/Zoom, Pat Fribis/Zoom, Ken Hamilton/Zoom, Dan Herron/Rm. 19, Ellen Littleton/Zoom, and Jackie Zeitinger/Zoom. || Ten Visitors.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rev. George Miller, Senior Minister

**OPENING PRAYER:** The meeting was opened with an audio recording provided by Barbara Smith.

**GUEST COMMENTS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A/V Committee - September 24, 2024, Minutes
- Cemetery Board - August 21, 2024, Minutes
- Council Meeting - September 23, 2024, Minutes
- Council Meeting | Executive Session - September 23, 2024, Minutes
- Finance Ministry - September 17, 2024, Minutes
- Membership & Evangelism - September 3, 2024, Minutes
- Physical Facilities Ministries - October 17, 2024
  - (7) *REPORTS*

Phil moved to accept the October 28, 2024 Consent Agenda. Barbara seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. This motion was approved unanimously.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Pastor George - His written report was submitted to the Council prior to this meeting. (There were no follow-up question/s for Pastor George.)

Denee Bowers - Her written report was submitted to the Council prior to this meeting. (There were no follow-up question/s regarding this report.)

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The Financial Secretary reported the following information for September 2024 -

- The regular offering for September was \$43,658.45.
  - This offering amount is over what was on the budget for the month by \$741.78.
- The total income for September was \$97,065.97. It was under budget by \$6,909.84.
  - Items that contributed to these figures were:
    - General Endowment income of \$17,915.36,
    - The Beyersdorfer's Endowment income of \$5,888.34,
    - The P.E.T. income of \$23,348.54,
    - In addition, there were five Sundays in the month of September.

- The total income YTD through September was \$677,187.25.
  - This result is over budget by \$40,262.16,
  - An insurance check was deposited to the Maintenance/Facility account from insurance due to Spring storm damage to a portion of our roof.
- The total expenses for September were \$49,873.89, which is under the budget by \$37,799.19.
  - Total expenses YTD was \$156,527.19,
  - Which was under budget by \$37,166.65.
- There was no deficit this month! The month ended up in excess of \$47,192.08.
  - The YTD deficit was (\$133,148.65),
  - The budget YTD was (\$193,697.69)
  - The difference between the total YTD and the budgeted amount was (\$60,549.04).
- There were no unusually large expenses incurred this month, just the expected monthly expenses.

Phil reiterated to the Council that he is very concerned we are still working with a large deficit and have been working with it with no apparent change in our financial processes since last year at this same time. A short discussion occurred as a follow-up.

### **Physical Facilities Ministries:**

Donovan reported the following updates to the Council regarding the Physical Facilities Ministries:

- Lindbergh Schools will use a large pile of dirt on campus next spring to fill in low-lying spots on the sports fields.
  - Lindbergh asked if we would continue with aeration and overseeding this year. Donovan agreed to have that done on the portion of the fields where the soccer teams practice.
- Sunset Hills Historical Society has accepted the English Bell for one of their parks. History supplied by Joy will be forwarded to the city.
- Tenants in the parsonage are still pursuing a government grant to make that house more energy efficient.
- The burned picnic table in the pavilion was repaired and restained during Work Day.
- A truckload of mulch was spread around the campus on Work Day.
- The Port-a-Potty will remain on campus through the end of November.
- Donovan will draft a list of clean-up/closing tasks that need to be completed for the Social Hall as requested by Charlie as he has come across items left incomplete on Monday mornings.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

>Nominating Committee - Kathy Herron from the Nominating Committee reported members of this committee are Marsha Fey, Kathy Herron, Kristi Kienzler, Maddie Prewitt, and Linda Taylor. She is excited to present the following nominees for 2025:

- Cemetery Board -
  - Jim Kaiser is re-upping for another three-year term, and Justin Wenk will begin a three-year term.
- Church Council -
  - Melinda Borman has agreed to serve four years, Amanda Boyer has agreed to serve three years, Kirk Dalgaard has agreed to serve two years, and Tracy Mulderig has agreed to serve four years.
- Perpetual Endowment Trust -
  - Eric Fey has agreed to serve five years.

The Council commended the committee for finding four younger people to help serve in these positions. When asked why some of the brand-new incoming members had different term lengths, Kathy said it allowed for getting new members into sync with the four-year cycles now established within the Bylaws.

>Stewardship - Katy Forand shared that 50 people recently helped work during our annual Fall Work Day. 18 cubic feet of mulch was spread, and many interior areas -including the sanctuary- were cleaned and freshened. In the upcoming weeks, Stewardship Committee members will be sharing “why” they believe in and support St. Lucas UCC on Sunday mornings. What does St. Lucas UCC give to them? Two future stewardship campaigns will be “A Season of Giving” and then “The Season of Invitation” in February. Look for more details to be shared soon. The Stewardship Committee has decided to reinstate the passing of the offering plate which has not been done since pre-CoVid. Small baskets will be placed at the end of each pew, and the length of the pew will be shared for the collection of offerings.

>P.E.T. - Barbara read a short email from Bill Biedenstein summarizing the report he submitted for the Annual Meeting workbook. Bill was in attendance via Zoom. Phil had questions concerning the financial yield available to the church under the current bylaws of the P.E.T. Phil suggested investing the P.E.T. income into interest-bearing bonds/certs. Something that will grant a higher yield than capital gains. Phil feels the current structure is jeopardizing the vision of the church. Bill invited Phil to attend a P.E.T. meeting rather than discussing the topic during a Council meeting. Phil plans to make a motion to the congregation to alter the language regarding the investment policy. Kathy asked if more P.E.T. data/info could be shared with the congregation before the Semi-annual meeting. She reminded the Council it was requested last year, yet she has not seen any information released to date. Barbara suggested perhaps a P.E.T. Conversation meeting could be held for the congregation so the sole topic of P.E.T. is discussed.

>Land Use Task Force - No change since last month - Tabled.

>Worship Area Changes - No change since last month - Tabled.

>Delegates - Joy Dressel, Dan Herron, and Kathy Herron all reported on the information they received by attending the October Zoom meetings for the St. Louis Association and the Mid-Missouri South Conference of the UCC.

- Kathy read a detailed summary of what occurred during her attendance at the Association meeting. The proposed 2025 budget was discussed, the church-giving report was shared, and the annual meeting was held. Her takeaway from the event was “Enormous Risk, Enormous Faith. What is St. Lucas being called to do?”
- Dan attended the M.M.S.C. Zoom gathering held at Eden Seminary Chapel. The opening music was supplied by the Christ Church in Maplewood & Kindred UCC. Rev. Mary Nelson, Transitional Conference Minister supplied the day’s message. The closing music was supplied by Rev. Eric Moeller. His takeaway from the event was that St. Lucas needs to promote this annual gathering more widely so that more church members can participate in the wider church.
- Joy attended the annual conference board meeting. The Board -formerly known as the Council- oversees 126 churches in the conference. They are located in Missouri, Tennessee, and Arkansas within three regions: St. Louis (who TN & AR report to), the Eastern Association (anything outside of St. Louis), and the Western Association. Their 2025 budget was approved, yet like St. Lucas, they too are trying to reduce a budget deficit. Delegates for the General Synod meeting were approved. That meeting will now take place every three years. Items that were not completed at this meeting will be taken up at an additional meeting within the upcoming week/months. A few of those topics were 1.) Our culture needs to change - a lack of trust, and (2.) The transitional conference minister needs to be confirmed, yet their bylaws require a “search process” first to be completed. Items under the outdoor ministries postponed for

later discussion were their report and their budget deficit which grew after CoVid. The Site Manager for Moval position has been changed to seasonal rather than year-round, Camp Tambo has been sold to help reduce the deficit, and repairs are ongoing at Shannondale due to storm damage, in addition to rentals now being allowed to non-church groups. Rev. Eric Moeller opened and closed the meeting with his music.

>Attendance Numbers - Barbara reported church attendance numbers from September 28 through October 27. Live attendance and online attendance totaled 789 people.

>Other Old Business - There was none.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

>Personnel Committee - Reserved for tonight's executive session.

>Christmas Eve/Day Services - A request by the choir was made to hold the Christmas Eve service at 10 pm. Some questioned if this left out families from attending service on Christmas Eve. A discussion was held about the merits of only having one Christmas Eve service and one Christmas Day service. Pastor George was asked for his opinion. Due to the timing of how Christmas Day falls mid-week, he offered these observations: During the two weeks of December 15th - December 29th there will be church services on 12/15, 12/21, 12/22, 12/24, 12/25, 12/28, and 12/29. The Zac and Lizzy production on 12/15 can be viewed as the children's message for the season. Plus we need to be mindful of the ushers, choir, and other volunteers during this season and how it has been more difficult to secure those individuals with a smaller pool to work from. Katy suggested we "test" this plan of action and wait for the attendance and congregational response. If we don't try something new how will we know if it'll work or not? Donovan made a motion to approve this schedule for Christmas Eve/Day. Phil seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

>Other New Business - Signature cards at the bank for those allowed to sign checks. Standard practice is to have two signatures on file at the bank. That of the Council President and Treasurer. This month both of those individuals were out of town for vacations. The question was asked of the Council if this is problematic. Debbie and Jeff arranged to use the church credit cards in the event an emergency were to arise. A short discussion resulted in a decision to 1.) Check with Jeff Wagener to ask whether a new policy should be established to cover this situation. In addition 2.) A council rep will need to check in with our bank to see if they have any restrictions regarding signature cards. Future discussion may be needed on this topic.

Without any further New Business to discuss, the Zoom guests were released from the meeting and the Council moved into an Executive Session.

\*This now ended the Public Session of the October 2024 Council meeting.

*(Minute marker: 2 hours/17 minutes)*

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Smith,  
Recording Secretary

NOTE - the next regular Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.