

Desert Cross Lutheran Church Council Minutes
August 15, 2016

Present: Don Pelley, Jim Matthews, Paul Fagerman, Jennifer Hunsaker, Stanley Fernandes, and Dan Apel

Absent: Dale Martin, Bryan Riensche, and Jennifer Hefner

Staff Present: Pastor Andrea Cain, Pastor Matt Dobyms, Doug Bjotvedt

Devotions: Stan opened with devotions.

Agenda / Minutes Approval: Paul moved and Jim seconded the acceptance of the amended August Agenda, and Jim moved and Paul seconded that the July Minutes be accepted. Council approved both motions unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Gilbert Study Team Meeting- Meeting was held at Gilbert to review the two proposed plans for the future. It appears that the Gilbert site would like to head toward the goal of becoming an independent ELCA congregation. Another meeting is set up this week to get a better feel for the financial responsibility of being a stand alone congregation.

Reports:

1. President's Report- Nice during the worship services to pray together and send Amy off to seminary.
2. Pastor Andrea- The remodel in Gilbert is fabulous. It is fun to worship in the new space. Still working out small details but it is all coming together. It has been a joy to be at the meetings for the future directions of Tempe/Gilbert. Everyone is working well together. Fall is coming. Lots of planning underway.
3. Pastor Matt- Amy left for seminary today. Have been looking to find the right person to carry on the work she was doing with the children. Hannah Rodriguez who has grown up in the Desert Cross community has been identified and will be working 10 hours per week taking on some of the roles that Amy did. Through the entire summer, with all of the pastoral time off, no pulpit supply was needed, which is quite the accomplishment. Next year is the 500th year anniversary of the Reformation. Will try to tie the theme into Campfirmation and Bible study next year, help the kids be more connected to the larger church.
4. CCMM - Positive conversations in both Tempe and Gilbert.
5. Financial Report – Slightly further behind than we expected. May be attributed to the unexpected cost of replacing the server. On target to exceed revenue and expenses. Jim moved and Stan seconded to accept the Financial Report as presented. The council unanimously approved the motion.

6. Program Reports – Thank you to the staff for your ongoing efforts in ministry. The council appreciates the monthly updates. Should look into better metrics on the programming. How many people are involved, etc.

New Business:

1. Stewardship Drive- Using the resource, Because of God's Great Mercy. The resource will highlight two things. It will ask every family to increase their giving to .5 to 1% of their family's income. It will bring up the option of giving electronically. Drive will start October 23rd. Weekly emails, bulletin inserts, and mission moments during each service, except All Saints Sunday. Commitment Sunday will be November 20th. There will be a budget workshop on September 12th.
2. Congregational Meeting- Congregational Meeting will be December 4th. The main focus will be the budget.
3. I-Help- The Church Council will host the I-Help meal on October 25th.
4. Endowment- A \$1,000 request was made by Diane Fernichio for a Reading Buddies program at STEP UP Charter School. The Endowment Committee recommended that the \$1,000 award be made. Jim motioned and Paul seconded to approve the Endowment Committee's recommendation to support the Reading Buddies program.

Prayer Concerns: Prayers for Jenn Hefner as she recovers from surgery. Prayers for Lucas Selby. Prayers for college students as they return to school. Prayers for Amy Gauthier as she begins seminary.

55+ Breakfast Gilbert House- August 18th
Gilbert Breakfast Dudes- August 20th
I-Help Hosting- August 23rd
Next Council Meeting- September 19th

The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Hunsaker, Council Secretary