

Desert Cross Lutheran Church Council Minutes November 21, 2016

Present: Don Pelley, Jim Matthews, Paul Fagerman, Jennifer Hunsaker, Brian Riensche, and Dan Apel

Absent: Jennifer Hefner, Dale Martin, and Stanley Fernandes

Staff Present: Pastor Andrea Cain, Pastor Dan Megorden, Pastor Matt Dobyms, and Doug Bjotvedt

Devotions: Don opened with devotions.

Agenda / Minutes Approval: Jim moved and Don seconded the acceptance of the November Agenda, and Jim moved and Paul seconded that the October Minutes be accepted. Council approved both motions unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Town Hall Meeting Recap- Moving on with one congregation two sites. Bryan moved and Dan seconded that by the February Council meeting we establish a framework to develop teams to define what interdependence between the two sites means in relation to governance structure and financial management for both sites. Council unanimously approved the motion.
2. IRS Appeal on 2012 tax amended return- 2012 refund was rejected. Doug filed an appeal. It was received and is still under review. The IRS sent a letter stating they need 45 more days to review it.

Reports:

1. President's Report- Thought the Town Halls were terrific, good to see everyone pointing in the same direction.
2. Pastor Matt- Stewardship campaign has wrapped up for the fall. Pleased with how it went. Church obligations can be daunting for young families. For Advent wanted to find a way to connect what is happening at Desert Cross with home to avoid overly programming families. Decided on the book, The ADVENTure of Christmas. Close to 200 copies of the book have been requested by church families. Additionally, the Pastors will relate their sermons to the book.
3. Pastor Andrea- Beer and Bible last Friday. Great reflection on being thankful. Has been doing a lot of advent planning. Working on a Ladies Advent Luncheon- will talk about traditions and have fellowship at tables. Fun watching music develop in Gilbert. Went to a surprise retirement party for a church member, good reminder of what a tight knit community Desert Cross is.
4. Pastor Dan- Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service this Wednesday. Wants the Council to continue to think about Imagine Tomorrow, he will continue to revisit. 2017 is an important year for Lutherans. Reformation 500. Kicking it off with Mark Hanson. It is going to be great. For programming, thinks it would be beneficial to

add a part-time teaching pastor, this has already been endorsed by the executive committee. Jim moved and Dan seconded for the Council to endorse creating a limited part-time teaching position for Pastor Steve Holm for 2017. Council unanimously approved the motion.

5. CCMM - There was a feeling of relief in Gilbert regarding the Town Hall meetings.
6. Financial Report –Income and expenses were higher than anticipated in October. Still tracking closely to our plan. On track to be ahead of projections for revenue and expenditures for the year. Jim moved and Dan seconded to accept the Financial Report as presented. The council unanimously approved the motion.
7. Program Reports – Thank you to the staff for your ongoing efforts in ministry. The council appreciates the monthly updates.

New Business:

1. Finance Committee Recommendations- Recommend that Desert Cross should honor our pledge of \$70,000 in benevolence to the Synod this year, if financially able, Desert Cross should exceed the benevolence to the Synod. The committee recommended Desert Cross withhold \$5,000 payment of Outreach Covenant to La Primera in December. They recommended that La Primera remain on the Outreach list for 2017 and the covenant be reviewed around this time next year. Additionally, the committee recommended that the council delay paying out any approvals for Gilbert remodel until at least December 15th, until finances are more stable. Jim moved and Paul seconded to approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee. The council unanimously approved the motion.
2. Endowment Committee Recommendations- Recommend awarding a grant of \$1,000 for MOPS program. Recommend approving \$3,000 for Restoration Rides Ministry. The committee considered a request by Concordia School for their annual book fair. They decided to table the request until the February meeting, as the money is not needed until March. Jim moved and Paul seconded to approve the two endowment requests as presented. The council unanimously approved the motion.
3. Gilbert Remodel Request- Presented a bid of \$7,700 to change two signs. Paul moved to approve the sign expenditure request of \$7,700 and Bryan seconded, with payment after December 15th. The council unanimously approved the motion. In the meantime, will redo the vinyl banners so they can be up before Christmas, will work with Meagan Jennett to get them to the printer, will come out of evangelism money. The carpet is on hold.
4. 2017 Budget Review and Vote- Executive Committee approved a budget of \$1,329,113. Increase in budget due to increased programming (Reformation 500-Pastor Holm), pass through money (Hunger Jar), 2% pay increase, and adjustment for inflation. More than half of pledge cards received have increased

amount pledged. Paul moved and Dan seconded that the council approve the presented budget of \$1,329,113 to put before the congregation at the December Budget Meeting. Paul amended his motion to approve a budget of \$1,336,315 to account for a 3% pay increase. Bryan seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

5. December Budget Meeting Financial Report- Need to have a takeaway message that we are going to be close to what was projected for the year, but we need to create a reserve and increase giving. When the budget is approved at the Budget Meeting it will go into the annual report.

Prayer Concerns: Continued prayers for Jenn Hefner. Continued prayers for Ross Reck. Prayers for the family of Jim Southers, as they mourn his passing.

Thanksgiving Eve Service- November 23rd
First Sunday of Advent- November 27th
Advent Lunch and Suppers- November 30th
Children's Ministry Caroling- December 4th
Congregational Budget Meeting- December 4th
Next Council Meeting- December 19th

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Hunsaker, Council Secretary