

**Desert Cross Lutheran Church Council Minutes**  
**September 19, 2016**

**Present:** Don Pelley, Jim Matthews, Paul Fagerman, Jennifer Hunsaker, Stanley Fernandes, Dale Martin, Bryan Riensche and Dan Apel

**Absent:** Jennifer Hefner

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

**Devotions:** Bryan opened with devotions.

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

**Old Business:**

1. Stewardship Drive- Everything is set and ready to be printed and dispersed according to the timeline that has been set forward. Still getting people together to lead the Mission Moments. Drive will start October 23rd.
2. Gilbert Stand Alone Question Update- Last Wednesday a group met with Pastor Andrea and Pastor Matt. After a long discussion there was consensus around a revised resolution regarding Gilbert independence. The study team recommended to the Church Council that listening meetings be held at both Tempe and Gilbert sites to discuss the pathway to achieve "independence" for the Gilbert mission site. Furthermore, it was recommended that findings from the listening meetings be reported to the Church Council by the November Council meeting for their action and recommendation to the congregation. Jim moved and Paul seconded to adopt the study team recommendation. Council approved the motion unanimously.
3. I-Help- Church Council will be hosting on Tuesday, October 25th. The sign-up sheet for meal contributions was passed around.

**Reports:**

1. President's Report- Everything Don wanted to cover was discussed during the Old Business.
2. Pastor Andrea- A lot of getting ready for different groups that are starting. Twenty women have rsvp'd for Faith Friends. A lot of pastoral care happening. Visited Concordia School in Mesa. Good to connect with people there. A lot of effort and meetings going into the Tempe Gilbert relationship. Helping to set up Nancy Zine to organize the worship schedule. She will be helping three hours per week.
3. Pastor Matt- Pastor's study starting up. Confirmation kicks off this Wednesday for 7th and 8th graders. Will be going through the New Testament. The theme for Advent is set. How do we provide a resource to carry people through the course

of Advent? Found a great book as the foundation for the theme "The story of Christmas is all around us." There are some really good connections to journey through. Will invite families to order the book.

4. CCMM - Service attendance was light; secondary to the holiday weekend. Some concern in Gilbert regarding the future of Tempe and Gilbert.
5. Financial Report – In August, expenditures much higher than revenue. Paid for the air conditioner and the Gilbert remodel. Although funds are tight, we are doing much better compared with last year at this time. Jim moved and Dan 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.

**New Business:**

1. IRS Refund Denied/Appeal- Filed returns under the Affordable Care Act. 2013 return came back, less than expected. 2012 was denied because it was mailed a day late. Doug filed an appeal to the IRS.
2. Luther Seminary Letter- Received a letter from Luther Seminary thanking Desert Cross for their support of Amy Gauthier in her seminary studies.
3. Change in Structure of Announcements- Announcements were becoming more of a priority than worship, taking 10-15 minutes to get through. There are a lot of ways to get the information. We have a monthly newsletter, a weekly email, and rolling announcement on the projector before the service and now during the offering.

**Prayer Concerns:** Prayers for Amy Gauthier and her family as they mourn the death of her father. Continued prayers of healing for Jenn Hefner as she recovers. Prayers of comfort for the family of Jean Fox.

Pastor Studies in Gilbert and Tempe- September 20th

Reformation 500 Bookstore- September 25th

Bibles to 2nd and 3rd Graders- September 25th

I-Help Hosting- September 27th

Family Night in Tempe- September 28th

Next Council Meeting- October 17th

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Hunsaker, Council Secretary