

# CONGREGATION MEETING NOTES

**Sunday, April 7, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order with prayer at approximately 10:45 a.m.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor shared that the Bishop has extended her "on leave from Call" for another year or so, though we must plan ahead for a more traditional contract. Pastor works as a part-time hourly employee with no benefits.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Our new QuickBooks-driven system has aided greatly in keeping track of spending and more accurately projecting finances. Thank you to Henry Sauer, Richard Davis and their team for their efforts to convert processes to the new system that includes a descriptive at-a-glance "dashboard," which Henry demonstrated for the group. Giving has been solid, which is a testament to the efforts of this small group. One attendee suggested she would approach her Chinese Church to see if they might donate to our effort. Completed projects include Fence, LED light conversion (which we hope to see benefit on the electric bill), new shingle roof, some AC/furnace replacements and wifi improvement. (*More on projects in Capital Expenses section.*) The current budget as presented uses several months of QuickBooks data combined with previous information. Therefore, some line items are annualized for easier computing – next time these will convert to actual numbers to better show the ebbs and flows of church financing. Summer through end of August will continue to be difficult as church donations generally drop and no new Kids Kamp or PreSchool tuition comes in during that time. While the presented budget shows a \$3,559.85 shortfall at the end of December, the numbers included in the line items are conservative, and do not anticipate additional savings expected from LED light program or from elimination of some piano expenses for the remainder of the year. Leaders commented that this is probably one of the tightest, most balanced budgets we have seen in a while. Leadership will continue to monitor, adjust and update the congregation as data requires to ensure that we make the best use of the resources available to us.

*MOTION to accept budget as presented made by Kathy Davis, seconded by Candy Genovese, unanimously approved.*

**CAPITAL EXPENSE PLAN:** Ken Pawlak has been working to create a Capital Expense plan with corresponding quotes from vendors. Expenses currently identified include 3 new patio doors (one quote for \$1500), tree removal/topping (\$900), Parking Lot repair/replacement (TBD), Sound System reconfigure (TBD, including "free" speakers provided at the conclusion of the Organ Project). Bryan noted that he has purchased some equipment that will take the place of the bulk of the sound board at the back of the church, and which runs from an iPad. If anyone has an iPad with lighting connection that they are willing to donate, please see Bryan.

**MAINTENANCE PROJECTS – YARDWORK:** We continue to be in need of help keeping ceiling tile in good shape and replaced. Tiles must be in place per Fire Marshall to assist with fire suppression. Other tasks include painting, cleaning and yard work. Bryan consulted with a company that provides robotic mowers (similar to a Roomba). Our main field and perhaps across the Deerpath frontage would be a good spot for this continuously running machine, which is estimated to cost around \$3000. This would greatly cut down the hours needed to mow, and allow volunteers to focus on mowing within the fence and around the edges, weeding, and trimming. Bryan will learn more, but congregation is encouraged to consider this – as well as consider assisting with summer lawn maintenance. At this point we do not anticipate the ability to hire a landscaper to mow as we estimate at least \$240 and probably more per trip. Our current snow plow company has offered to provide year round landscape/snow removal for \$500 per month, however we have not researched other vendors nor do we currently have funds to cover this expense.

**LEADERSHIP:** Nominating Committee of Kathy Davis, Donna Barry and Pastor Amy Becker-Perez has been talking with people about interests and tasks. If they have not yet reached out to you, please reach out to them. Based on this work, we hope to elect new leadership at the next Congregation Meeting, anticipated for late summer. Lynn Brandl announced she is stepping down from the President role, which is now much easier given the new financial systems. She will continue to play piano and be an active member, but it is time for another

voice to take over Council Meetings and other tasks related to that role. Please see the Nominating Committee if you have an interest. *(Thank you for the honor of serving Christ Lutheran. LB)*

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY – JUNE 7 & 8 in Tinley Park:** At this time, Allie Menis (voting) and Pastor Amy (non-voting) are attending. Please let Pastor Amy know if you would like to attend. This will be an historic meeting as Bishop Miller will step down and a new Bishop will be elected. More information is at MCSELCA.org.

**8 MIDVALE/CORNER HOUSE:** Dick Barry explained that we have learned that the strip of land between the parking lot and the corner house, including the ramp, is our responsibility. While we find no agreement linked to the Park District's construction of this ramp, removing it appears costly. Our main concerns now are maintenance (time to mow, cut out overgrown landscaping, maintain this extra strip) and liability (both for the ramp and for use of the parking lot). Historically, selling a strip of land this size has proven difficult as the setbacks are tight. Options include selling the strip (if even possible), "leasing" the land for a donation, leaving things as they are and stepping up our yard work, or blocking off the ramp. Suggestions include requiring a waiver of liability along with any written agreement (ultimately reviewed by an attorney, hopefully a friend of the Congregation who can do this pro bono). Congregation agreed that Dick Barry and Pastor Amy would reach out to the residents at the corner house and talk about the situation and see if a workable agreement can be reached, which will then be put into writing.

**PRIDE PARADES:** Due to the small number of attendees remaining by this point in the agenda, this discussion was tabled.

**OPEN FORUM:** Congregation was informed that justWorship lead by Jin Lee would continue to be around the building for select Saturdays for their music praise gathering, however at this time their Sunday worship has been suspended.

**CALENDAR CHECK:** Congregation reviewed Holy Week schedule and Confirmation Celebration planned for May 5.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

*MOTION to adjourn made by Mir Pawlak, seconded by Candy Genovese.*

Thank you for your faithful commitment  
and for the opportunity to serve on your behalf.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Brandl