

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Special Council Meeting – May 26, 2024

This special May 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, May 26, 2024 at 11:10 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

This meeting took the place of the regular meeting of May 19th, which was cancelled because of the power outage and damage from the storm on May 16th. The agenda was limited to discussion of the following items: 1) storm damage, 2) HCLC air conditioning and 3) Food Pantry expansion.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Jay Byerly, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Leigh Rothhapt, Hans Sunder, Warren Schick, Stephen Schulze and Stephanie Walton.

Storm Damage: President Lambeth commended the efforts of general contractor Noe Ibarra, Rene Romero Tree Service contractors, as well as HCLC members and staff, who all worked tirelessly to clean up the damage and get the church up and running. Although power was not restored at the church, Pastor Berggren held worship services on the Saturday and Sunday after the storm.

In her detailed description of the storm damage, Ms. Lambeth reported that the cost of emergency tree removal and cleanup was approximately \$9,000. There was extensive tree damage in the ELC playground area, with a large tree falling across the wrought iron fence and play structure, also causing damage to the circular sidewalk. There was significant damage to the Westview courtyard from fallen trees. This included damage to the roof and gutters, as well as the interior ceiling and walls of the Annex hallway, the portico and storage room adjacent to the Media Room, and patio pavers in the courtyard. Additionally there was a downed tree from Telge Lot 1 that fell onto the roof of the house on Lot 2; the owner of Lot 2 cleaned up and hauled off the portion that fell on his property, but there was a significant amount of HCLC cleanup on Lot 1. Repairs were also made to a section along the north aisle of the sanctuary (both interior and exterior) after a leak was discovered after the storm. At the time of this meeting the church had not received an invoice for the construction costs. Ms. Kilkenny will get estimates for the playground fence repair and additional tree work.

None of the damages were covered by insurance, and Council discussed setting up and publicizing a “Storm Recovery Fund” so people can make designated donations to offset these costs. Stephanie Walton will look into setting up an online “Go-fund-me” type fundraiser.

Air Conditioning: President Lambeth reported on A/C issues in the Annex and the Gym. Some of the A/C units in the Annex and Youth Room are not working properly. There are 3 units servicing this area: 1) Unit #1 is working fine, 2) Unit #2, which was replaced in 2023, is not working properly and needs to be evaluated, and 3) Unit #3, which is over 20 years old, is not working. These need to be checked out by Martinez Services.

The A/C in the Gym (Family Life Center) has become problematic: at present one unit is not working at all and the other is marginal. President Lambeth distributed copies of the \$82,000 estimate by Martinez Services for replacement of the 2 A/C units, which were installed in 1978. She emphasized her faith and confidence in the owners and the quality of service and pricing given to Holy Cross. She remarked on the significant research put into the proposal, as this is a complicated replacement of an old system, requiring custom built curbs (foundations) and components. Treasurer Finstad stated emphatically that a second bid must be obtained for such a large expenditure. He and Steve Schulze will get bids from additional companies. Ms. Lambeth stated that time is of the essence, as the A/C has become unreliable, and it is imperative to be able to use the Gym for fellowship events and VBS.

Food Pantry: Pastor Berggren read from a letter he drafted offering a detailed perspective on the challenges of the proposed Pantry expansion. He noted that the obstacles affecting approval of the project by the Hilshire Village Planning Committee are between the Pantry and a Glourie neighbor, *not* Holy Cross. Although the original proposal to extend the current storage building along the western edge of the parking lot was acceptable to Council, several parishioners expressed to him that they were not happy with the new idea of putting the building in the middle of the parking lot. There was additional discussion and Council voted unanimously to approve Pastor Berggren's prepared written response that Holy Cross approves the *original* proposal to add a 40-foot expansion to the north of the current building. Pastor Berggren stated that it was his hope that the Pantry and the Glourie neighbor would find a mutually agreeable solution.

The June Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Upon motion to adjourn, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kilkenny
Secretary, Church Council