

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – June 9, 2024

This Church Council meeting (which takes the place of the traditional May 2024 meeting) was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 11:05 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Jay Byerly, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Leigh Rothharpt, Hans Sunder, Stephen Schulze and Stephanie Walton. Warren Schick did not attend the meeting.

The minutes from the April 2024 and special May 26, 2024 meeting were submitted by Council Secretary Julie Kilkenny and approved by Council. After hearing that there were changes to the March figures in the Treasurer's report, Ms. Kilkenny will revise that section of the minutes before submitting the final minutes for the website and Crossties.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. Dr. Finstad noted that there were some minor changes to his March figures, which were corrected in the revised report distributed at this meeting. April 2024 offerings were \$28,655, a decrease of \$510 from March. Expenses for the month of April were \$29,746, an increase of \$400 over March. The April deficit (of expenses over offerings) was \$1,091. The checking account balance at 4/30/24 was \$45,122, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad noted that he moved \$30,000 from the credit union savings account into the checking account. He added that memorial funds were used for campus landscape improvements, decreasing that balance by ~\$5,600. He provided a summary of investments for this month. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren remarked that it was a very busy month with storm recovery. He thanked everyone for their extra efforts. He updated Council on several members who are hospitalized. He noted the passing of HCLC member Cathy Doughty, whose memorial service will be on June 10th. His other activities include preparing for worship each week; making phone calls and visits to parishioners; providing counseling and ministering for prayer requests [coordinating with Deacon Donahue]; outreach to the community; weekly Wednesday Bible Study; and various church ministry meetings.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

Improvements to Campus / Building and Grounds (B&G):

- President Lambeth distributed a Building and Grounds Repair List of pressing projects from Alan Lambeth, and Council discussed renewing the search for a handyman to help with these projects. Ms. Lambeth noted that old water damage was discovered in the Annex hallway during the roof repair done after the derecho storm (5/16-5/17/24); this highlighted the need to have gutter guards for the sections of roof that still do not have them.

- The Memorial Fund Committee continued work on landscape projects, and Alan Lambeth helped with sprinkler system issues.

Food Pantry:

- President Lambeth reported that she and Pastor Berggren drafted and emailed a letter to the Food Pantry summarizing the HCLC Council position regarding the Pantry's **proposed expansion**. The letter noted Holy Cross's appreciation of the good work the Pantry is doing, and it stated that Council has approved the *original* request for the new building on the western edge of the Westview parking lot. (This proposal faced opposition from one of the Glourie neighbors at meetings of the Hilshire Village Council and Planning Committee.) At the time of this meeting, President Lambeth had not heard back from the Pantry.

There was a general discussion about other Pantry items such as the early arrival of Food Pantry clients (as early as 6:30 a.m. for 11 a.m. opening) and the safety of unsupervised children who sometimes play in the driveway. Ms. Lambeth observed that the summer heat can and has been a health issue for people waiting outside for long periods. She will discuss these concerns with Pantry representatives.

A/C:

In response to previous questions about where all the A/C units are located and which areas they service, President Lambeth distributed a map (prepared by Alan Lambeth) of all the A/C units, when they were installed/replaced, as well as how many filters each unit requires. This information will help Council members to better understand and anticipate future A/C expenditures.

Steve Schulze presented a detailed spreadsheet comparing the existing HCLC **Gym A/C units** to the 3 bids for replacement units, which varied significantly in price. He explained in detail the differences and pros/cons of each proposal. He noted that the new units in all of the proposals are more efficient than the existing 45-year-old units. There was a lengthy discussion of various aspects of this project, and there were a couple of questions left unanswered. Dr. Finstad and Mr. Schulze will contact the vendors tomorrow to get these questions answered, and President Lambeth will obtain a vote via email or text.

Treasurer Finstad requested that, especially as Holy Cross has recently faced several major expenditures, three bids be obtained for future large expenditures.

Other:

- President Lambeth updated Council on the progress toward improving **security cameras** around the church campus.
- Stephanie Walton reported on **VBS** preparation (July 22nd). She was working through the organizational materials that were ordered. She was pleased with the response from student volunteers and members asking how they can help. Ms. Walton asked about the status of restoring the playground to a usable condition. Ms. Lambeth will check into that.

- Ms. Lambeth reported that the **FLC kitchen deep-clean** was going very well. She remarked on the significant effort by volunteers on this project: emptying all of the cabinets and closets; donating, selling or discarding unneeded items; washing all items before putting them back into newly organized spaces. The custodial staff did a deep-clean of all of the emptied storage areas, and a pest control company did a thorough extermination service, which included plugging holes and crevices in the kitchen.
- **Derecho Storm Recovery:** President Lambeth remarked that she was touched at the response of members and friends of Holy Cross after the storm.
 - Emergency tree work is complete. (Still pending is the removal of 3 trees that could fall on the ELC/church office wing in the event of a future storm.)
 - The Annex hallway and Westview courtyard repairs are complete.
 - Work to repair damage on the playground is in progress.
 - A storm recovery fund has been established and is already accepting donations via regular offering methods, and Stephanie Walton has set up a PayPal storm recovery fund on Facebook.

New Business:

- Council approved the Food Pantry’s **Building Use Request** for use of the Westview parking lot for Food Fairs on July 17th and August 17th. Council approved this request.
- Council discussed adding **signage** to the church campus: address signs at the driveway entrances on Westview and Wirt, as well as new signage to direct people to various buildings and locations once they are on campus. Pastor Berggren added that vendors and delivery personnel often have a hard time knowing where to leave their packages. Ms. Kilkenny will research this.
- Council unanimously approved a motion to add Barbara Neumann as a **signatory** on the HCLC checking account at Chase Bank. President Lambeth explained that it was necessary to designate an additional signatory for the account, as health issues of other signatories have made it difficult to get the two signatures required for checks.
- Ms. Walton is evaluating platforms to implement a “text blast” system for Holy Cross.
- Ms. Lambeth asked Council to begin thinking about ideas for a **Time & Talent program** for September or October.

The July Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, July 21, 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