

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – July 21, 2024

The July 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, July 21, 2024 at 11:07 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, Warren Schick and Stephanie Walton.

The minutes from the June 2024 meeting were submitted by Council Secretary Julie Kilkenny and approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. June 2024 offerings were \$18,535, an increase of \$3,250 over May offerings of \$15,285. Expenses for the month of June were \$30,307, a decrease from May expenses of \$32,304. The June deficit (of expenses over offerings) was \$11,772 (as compared to May's \$17,019 deficit). The checking account balance at 6/30/24 was \$16,477, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad discussed the impact of Hurricane Beryl and the derecho storm on HCLC finances, and President Lambeth commented on offerings designated for storm recovery. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren remarked that it was a very busy month again with storm recovery. He likened the frame of mind of many at Holy Cross to PTSD, and he tried to provide comfort to parishioners who were suffering from the effects of the storms. He thanked HCLC members and friends for their extra efforts. He updated Council on several members who are hospitalized. His other activities included preparing for worship each week; making phone calls and visits to parishioners; providing counseling and ministering for prayer requests [along with Deacon Donahue]; outreach to the community; weekly Wednesday Bible Study; and various church ministry meetings. President Lambeth asked Pastor Berggren to think about the 4 weeks of vacation he needs to take this year, so plans to get a supply pastor can get underway.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

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

- President Lambeth detailed some of the B&G projects for the month. Work had begun the Saturday before Hurricane Beryl hit to take down 3 trees in the playground that were leaning toward the Church Office/ELC wing; however, one of the trees was infested with bees, and work had to be halted for safety reasons. When Beryl hit that Monday, the trees fell against the building. The bees' nest had to be removed before any contractor would take down the trees. Ms. Walton added that there was damage to the parts of the Eagle Scout playground project. Ms. Lambeth was hopeful that the work would be finished and the fence repaired before school starts. They will also get bids to repair the roof damage. (*see also New Business: Storm Damage*)

- Pastor Berggren recognized the considerable work in getting the new **A/C units** for the gym up and running, and he thanked Steve Schulze and Alan Lambeth for their extra efforts. The A/C contractors also worked on issues with other units on campus.
- President Lambeth reported that the Gym kitchen deep clean project (including pest control) was complete.

Food Pantry:

- President Lambeth updated Council on talks with the Pantry. They discussed coming up with a **written agreement** between the two parties, something that Hilshire Village also wanted to see during hearings regarding the proposed Pantry expansion. She distributed to Council members for review a revised draft of the agreement between HCLC and the Pantry outlining the relationship and responsibilities of each party. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept this version of the agreement.
- There was further discussion about safety items for the Pantry. Pastor Berggren suggested that rubber **speed bumps** could be placed along the south driveway to slow down traffic and offer some protection for clients (especially children) gathered outside the Pantry.
- Ms. Lambeth noted that the Pantry cancelled its building use requests for **Food Fairs** after July.
- President Lambeth updated Council on the Pantry's **proposed expansion** efforts. The Pantry has contacted a real estate attorney to help them in this process. He came up with a plan of action, and one of the suggestions was to clarify the ambiguity of a Glourie address on some records for part of the church property (including some of the parking lot). There was further discussion about some of the sticking points brought up in Hilshire Village meetings.

VBS:

- Stephanie Walton reported on VBS, which begins July 22nd. She was pleased with the volunteer response: there are teachers for all classes, check-in and security volunteers, and 10 Stratford HS students will be helping as "floaters". Mission Days will be incorporated into the week, and campers are encouraged to bring supplies each day to share with the community: 1) books, 2) pet food, 3) mac 'n cheese, 4) canned goods, 5) soap or toothpaste.

New Business:

- Ms. Lambeth reported that Chip Charlton would like to do his **Eagle Scout project** for Holy Cross. They discussed some possibilities, and she expects him to present his proposal at the next Council meeting.
- There was a brief discussion of HCLC investment funds, and the suggestion was made that the Financial Review Committee reevaluate investment goals in the next few months. Mr. Schick provided a history of the Telge fund, the capital expenditures HCLC has faced, and the returns the fund has earned to date. Council agreed that vigilant attention to economic fluctuations is imperative.

- **Storm Recovery:** President Lambeth asked for approval to pay to have contractors remove storm debris from the Wirt lawn. Additional trees will need to be trimmed or removed when things settle down after the storm. HCLC will need to get bids to repair damage to the Atrium roof and elevator roof. Other areas to address include: 1) a water (roof?) leak along the center aisle of the sanctuary; 2) a leak in the church office; 3) ELC to repair the canopy on playground; 4) the leak in the Annex kitchen already fixed by Alan Lambeth; 5) School of the Woods took care of the tree that fell across fence and south driveway. Storm recovery fund donations are still coming in.
- Ms. Lambeth deferred discussion of ideas for a **Time & Talent program** for the next meeting.

The August Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, August 25, 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