

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – April 19, 2026

The April 2026 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Stephen Schulze on Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 11:08 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Stephen Schulze, Jay Byerly, Anita Cooper, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Wendy Lambeth, Bert Martin, Russell Richter, and Penny Schick.

The **minutes** from the March 2026 meeting were submitted by Secretary Julie Kilkenny and approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He reported that March 2026 offerings were \$23,662, which was \$2,742 greater than February. March expenses were \$27,546, which was \$2,007 less than February. The March deficit (expenses > offerings) was \$3,884, an improvement from the previous month. The checking account balance at 3/31/26 was \$63,130, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren updated Council on his activities for the month. He gave a summary of Lenten and Easter activities and events, thanking everyone in the congregation for their efforts to make it a meaningful season. He noted the passing of HCLC member Betty Larson and of Marilyn Thigpen, long-time teacher at the Early Learning Center. Ms. Lambeth added that Patti Portice, the ELC Pre-K teacher, is retiring at the end of the school year. Pastor Berggren reported that the Synod Assembly will be held May 15th-16th* at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Sugar Land. President Schulze and Nancy Beamesderfer will also attend the Assembly. Other activities included making phone calls and visits to parishioners; providing counseling and ministering for prayer requests; outreach to the community; and various church ministry meetings.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

Buildings and Grounds/Maintenance:

- Ms. Lambeth reported that donations have been obtained to fund the **removal of overgrown shrubs** along the Westview side of sanctuary; Council approved a motion to tear out and haul away these bushes. She noted also that a large limb fell on the Westview lawn and also one on Telge lot 1, which need to be cut up and hauled away.
- Ms. Lambeth presented Alan Lambeth's plan to repair the **broken sidewalk** from the west parking lot to the sanctuary in the Westview lawn. This was in response to members' concerns about safety and tripping hazards caused by tree roots over time. The estimated cost of the project is \$4,800. She reported that there was already \$2,500 pledged by members and HCLC groups, and she planned to set up a display in the Atrium to seek additional donations. Council approved the motion to proceed with this project.

* *The dates of the Synod Assembly were reported incorrectly in the March minutes.*

Food Pantry: President Schulze reported that construction is underway for the Pantry expansion. The utility pole has been moved, the concrete slab poured, and the refrigerator and freezer units are being set in place. The south driveway (adjacent to School of the Woods) will be closed for a few days during construction while work is done on the gas meter. He expects the project to be completed in three weeks.

Assets and Ideas Committee (formerly Growth/Outreach Committee): The name of this committee was changed to better reflect current needs. The next meeting will be May 3rd.

New Business:

- A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to elect Jay Byerly as Vice President of the Council.
- President Schulze presented a summary of HCLC's current elevator maintenance contract, and brought up a proposed change in providers at a lower fee. Council authorized him to begin the process of changing companies.
- Council discussed administrative changes regarding HCLC's Vanguard investment accounts. It has been quite difficult for John Stokes (Financial Review Committee) to get information to effect these changes. President Schulze reported that Mr. Stokes wants Council to approve an action to allow the authorized signers on the account to execute the document to make the change to the new investment account platform. Council approved this action. Mr. Schulze will continue working to get this resolved.
- Ms. Lambeth asked for Council approval to convert the Library in the FLC into a gift shop. The room has not been used as a library in years. The quilters' groups and Upcycled Crafty Ladies would like to use the room to display merchandise, and perhaps decrease the number of craft shows they participate in (and reduce hauling heavy items around). She and Barbara Neumann would clean out the room and repurpose it into a HCLC Gift Shop. Russ Richter suggested adding an online gift shop. Council approved this item.

2026 Election Results (Congregational Meeting Part II – March 22, 2026):

- Council President (1-year term) : Stephen Schulze
- Secretary (1-year term): Julie Kilkenny
- Treasurer (1-year term): Ricki Finstad
- Council Members (2-year term): Jay Byerly, Bert Martin, Penny Schick
[Returning Council members (with 1 year remaining): Anita Cooper, Wendy Lambeth, Russell Richter]
- Nominating Committee (1-year term): Alice Braun, Linda Cuzzort, Tillie Remmert, Ike Thompson
- Endowment Committee (2-year term): Pat Boessling, Sharon Wagner
[Returning Committee members (with 1 year remaining): Ken Dinges, Marilyn Flick]

The May Council Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2026 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