

# Salem Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

## April 17, 2023

Attending: Phil Barker, Rebekah Elling, Elaine Hause, Rev. Aaron Holmgren, Norma Johannsen, Ellen Marty, Carol Olson, Julie Reed, Jack Schluckebier, Nancy Wyatt.

Meeting convened at 7:06 PM with an opening prayer by Pastor Aaron.

Icebreaker: Jack asked everyone to name the first car they owned.

Covenant: Read by Council members.

Minutes of last Council meeting: Motion made by Carol to accept the minutes as corrected. Julie seconded. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

### Committee Reports:

Education: Report received.

Evangelism: Report received.

Mission Committee: Report received. Fifteen people are going to Tanzania, ten from Salem.

Parish Nurse: Report received: Blood drive will be coming up.

Pastor's Report: Report Received. Jack gave special congrats to Elaine and her team for the Saturday before Easter kids carnival.

Property & Finance: Spring cleanup will be at 10:00 this Thursday. Jack referenced the concrete block structural support by the kitchen. The concrete blocks will have to be removed and a new concrete support poured. Elaine has researched the Rose Brothers, who have been selected to do the repairs. Nancy Schmidt wanted Council to approve hiring them. Ellen made a motion to engage the Rose Brothers to repair the damage to the wall by the kitchen door. Elaine seconded. Motion was carried unanimously. Jack will ask Nancy Schmidt to remove the Rose Brothers as employees of McGough in the Property Report. They are doing this job off the books as a one-day project.

Stewardship: Report received.

Youth & Family: Report received. VBS is on a roll. Carol said she is working with Tracy at St. Stephens. Carol told Phil (Youth & Family) that she has t-shirts that can be used for the West St. Paul parade. Elaine has postponed the talent show.

Financial Report: Ellen said cash in Salem's accounts has been stable. The Endowment Fund took a major hit last year but is coming back up, but no need to worry about the Endowment Fund's principle. Salem has no long-term liabilities. Youth and Pastor's Emergency Funds have gone back up. Money was borrowed from these funds last year. Ellen took money from the December extra contributions to repay those funds. Jack asked a question about the Building Fund using money from the Endowment Fund for lighting. He wondered about the large over-budget in Utilities. Ellen said that there were major repair expenses. Jack wondered about Missions not being broken down into sub-categories. Jack will have Global Missions re-send Ellen the breakdown they would like to see under Missions.

Open Building to prayer: Pastor Aaron still likes the idea but would like to table a decision until the next meeting. Council agreed.

Mission Months:

Benevolence April appeal—WAPO: People can now contribute on Salem's website.

Distribution of Project Home donations: Total collected was \$670. Someone from Missions will have to make a request to forward a check to Project Home. Elaine requested that the Pastor ask Michelle (Salem church secretary) to put the Mission projects on the Salem Facebook Community Group.

Labyrinth grant proposal status: Elaine explained the changes that had to be made to Salem's proposal because the grantor Age-Friendly Minnesota, cut the requested amount in half to \$35,000. She worked with the contractor to revise the estimate to \$47,000. Elaine noted several options for handling this change. The stone benches were cut, but Rebekah noted that the benches are important for older people. It was suggested that possibly Salem people could build wooden benches. Jack asked what the group's thinking was for acquiring the last \$12,000. He wondered how soon we could get a definite grant amount from Age-Friendly Minnesota. Carol suggested that Elaine talk to the grant people and see if they would increase the grant to \$47,000. If they say "no" will the grantor still grant the \$35,000 and then Salem would make up the last \$12,000. Pastor Aaron reminded the Council that what we have currently from the grantor is a document that states "yes" we accept or "no" we don't. Nancy made a motion to accept the \$35,000 grant and designate \$12,000 from the recent bequest. Phil seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Recent Bequest Distribution: When the check from the bequest arrives, it will be for \$51,000. Ten percent (\$5100) will be going to the Endowment Fund. The Council allocated \$12,000 from the bequest to go for the Labyrinth project as previously voted on. Jack suggested that the remaining go into a special Restricted Account. Ellen will talk to Lana Pemberton (Endowment Committee Treasurer) for procedures to move the 10% to the Endowment Fund.

Augsburg programs:

Riverside Innovation Hub/ Place-Based Vocational Discernment. Deadline is tomorrow and this requires the Pastor's approval. We could also do it ourselves with help from Pastor Aaron. St. Stephens may have applied, but no announcements have been made. If St. Stephens gets accepted, Salem might be able to piggyback on them. If they're not accepted, we could join with them in a jointly developed program.

Planting Hope: Council originally agreed to put off until after Easter. Involves giving money to the Synod for local projects.

Calendar: Carol makes the changes to the current calendar as soon as she gets them and then sends a new copy to all Council members. Additions: June 10th Youth & Family participating in West St. Paul Day parade; July 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday as the commissioning ceremony for the Magome travelers. Pentecost Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Monthly Meeting Chart: No changes needed.

Medical Emergency Policy: Tabled until the Protected Persons Abuse Policy is finished. Pastor Aaron asked Rebekah to send Carol the policy as currently written.

Other Business: Youth & Family would like to be able to occasionally use the Fellowship Hall on Saturday night. That would mean the church that meets there would be relocated during those evenings. Jack said that is easily done.

River Heights Chorale will be performing in concert in the Sanctuary on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Closing Prayer: Ellen

Closing Prayer Assignments: Next Month Julie will give the closing prayer.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Carol; seconded by Ellen. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Wyatt; Secretary

(Minutes approved May 15, 2023)