



Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 2023

Attendees: Sam Carter, Joe Baggett, Cheryl Smith, Chip Edwards, Vivian Jefferson, Karen Faulkner, Gene Bain, Carol Shaffer, Anne Geiger, Gary Wolfe, Jeremy Shoop, Pastor Martin Eldred

Absent: Chris Nelson,

**I. Call to Order**

Sam Carter called the Zoom meeting of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC) Council to order at 7 p.m.

**II. Devotions**

Carol Shaffer led devotions and the opening prayer.

**III. Draft Agenda**

- Call to Order
- Devotions
- Approval of the Minutes
- Treasurer's Report and Approval
- Director of Music and Liturgy Report
- Pastor's Report
- Reading of correspondence
- Reports of ministry teams
- VP/Finance Committee Report
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
  1. Pastor's Housing Allowance for 2024
  2. Approval of alcohol for offsite event – Beer & Carols
  3. Approval of Budget for 2024
- Closing Prayer
- Adjournment

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Anne Geiger made the motion to approve the corrected minutes from the September 18, 2023 meeting. Karen Faulkner seconded and all voted in favor of approval.

**V. Treasurer's Report**

Joe Baggett submitted his report prior to the meeting. Last month we were positive, a change of about \$11K. The question is how much can we continue to do. We need to make up \$150,000. Joe said it really up in the air if we can make it up. We had one large contribution last month. If you take that out, we would be up \$1K. We have enough in the bank account to pay the bills. Gene Bain made a motion to pass the Treasurer's report and Anne Geiger seconded. All voted in favor of approval.

**VI. Director of Music and Liturgy Report**

Jeremy Shoop submitted a written report. He thanked everyone who supported him at Inspire. They will be performing at the Mason Temple in Alexandria on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**VII. Pastor's Report**

Pastor Martin said that last month has been a time of coming back. He partially filled in during services with the children's sermons and announcements. He attended an ordination and held pet blessings. Three families came to church because of flyers distributed at SterlingFest. The Stewardship program is underway. Pledge cards will be distributed on Reformation Sunday. He is preparing for the recital. From the staff meeting: they will re-evaluate use of space requirements and will bring a proposal next month. Pastor will push to meet in person with each new council member. Pastor reached out to the Rabbi of the Hebrew congregation of behalf of Holy Cross Lutheran Church to let him know that we are praying for them in light of recent events.

**VIII. Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

**IX. Reports of Ministry Teams**

**Education** – Chip Edwards submitted a written report.

**Evangelism** - Karen Faulkner provided a written report.

**Fellowship** – Anne Geiger submitted a written report. Anne noted how much “stuff” we have coming up.

**Outreach** – Vivian Jefferson submitted a written report.

**Personnel** – Gene Bain did not submit a written report

**Property** – Gary Wolfe submitted a written report. The AED cabinet is up, but not alarmed yet. Property cleanup is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>. Anne asked for comments from Gary regarding paving. Gary said by the beginning of the year, we should be able to move forward. Sam Carter said they did a good job of putting up the cabinet.

**Worship** – Carol Shaffer submitted a written report. She said they are getting ready for color changes in the next month.

**X. Vice President/Finance Committee Report**

Sam Carter submitted a written report. Sam said the Finance Committee met twice and hats off to members of the Finance Committee. He attached the budget in his email. Spending is a concern. They misjudged property expenditures for 2023.

**New Business**

Gene Bain brought up that each year Council is supposed to review Pastor Martin’s housing allowing. At last year’s December meeting, his housing allowance was increased to \$47,000. Anne Geiger seconded the motion and was approved by all.

Per the Personnel Manual, a motion is required to serve alcohol to congregation members at Beer and Carols at Jimmy’s Old Town Tavern. Anne Geiger made the motion, seconded by Gary Wolfe and all were in favor. Anne Geiger made the motion to serve one glass of champagne at the congregation’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Karen Faulker seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Budget – Vivian Jefferson expressed her concern about not reporting the shortfall in the proposed budget. Joe Baggett said this goes against a long-standing tradition and sends a bad signal. Vivian said that she is uncomfortable with presenting this budget to the congregation. After some discussion, Sam said that he will rework the proposed budget. Gene Bain expressed that this is what is needed to run the church and is our best estimate. We’ve lost people and we are trying to do what we can until we can get back on track. There is no quick fix. A good explanation will be needed when presenting to the congregation at the Annual Meeting so people understand our moral and legal obligations. Anne Geiger made the motion to approve the budget as is to present at the Annual Meeting with the possibility of holding a special meeting if needed. Gene Bain seconded. The motion passed with one person opposed.

**Adjourn**

Anne Geiger made the motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m., seconded by Carol Shaffer. All were in favor. Pastor Martin ended the meeting with closing prayer.

**REMINDERS:**

Devotions

November –  
December -

Meetings

November 20 – 7 p.m. (via Zoom)  
December 18 – 6:30 p.m. (In Person Gathering at Gregorio’s in Reston)