



1515 N Cascade Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

**April 22, 2025 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Present

Yoshiko Anspach, Larry Bagley, Bill Busovsky, Julie Furstenau, Terry Hjelkrem, Joan Kuehn (arrived 7:12), Kiersten Lehmkuhl, Pastor Travis Norton, Chris White

Absent

Brenda Bocek, Jason Fox

Opening

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church council was called to order by Terry Hjelkrem at 7:01 pm.

Devotions (Julie Furstenau)

Julie shared that one of the highlights of the Lenten season for her was her meetings with a confirmation student that she is mentoring. She shared some of the additional readings that she had done on some of the weekly topics and several of the questions that Pastor Michaela had set out for discussion. Julie felt that the mentors probably got more out of these meetings than the confirmands (since they'd had time to really think about the questions), but hopes that seeds were planted for further thought by the confirmands and that they realize it's ok to have questions about your faith that are hard to answer.

Approval of Minutes

COUNCIL APPROVED THE MARCH MINUTES

Finance Committee Report (Yoshiko Anspach)

Yoshiko noted a few items on the income and expense report that had a large variance:

- Continuing education, due to the staff retreat being held earlier than originally planned.
- Changes in salary categories, since Pastor Michaela moved from "staff" to "pastor"
- Property maintenance below projection since some carpet and window cleaning was delayed.

Yoshiko also discussed the consolidation of "Member Unpledged Offerings" and "NonMember/Loose Offering" on the income and expense report into one category in an effort to streamline the process for the weekly count teams.

Yoshiko also noted that some funds that had been incorrectly placed into the general operating funds were reclassified to the memorial fund.

COUNCIL APPROVED THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Senior Pastor Report

- We had almost 1000 people attend the four GOLA presentations in the first weekend of April. There was a large increase in attendance at "Jr. GOLA", and the new stage worked well.
- We had excellent Holy Week services and activities. Of particular note was the "Service of the Shadows" on Maundy Thursday, which resulted in a 25% increase in attendance over last year. Overall numbers for the Easter services were steady with last year's numbers. There were two contemporary services, with a total of 100 people. This could be one service next year, unless the contemporary service numbers grow. Several council members added their positive

comments about staff, volunteers, and everything that went into making GOLA/Holy Week such a meaningful time.

- Two personnel issues were discussed: the termination of one of our part-time sextons, and that Pastor Michaela will be taking the rest of her FAMIL+ leave May 5-26.
- Sam Norton's pacemaker surgery was successful, although the recovery time in the hospital was longer than anticipated. Overall, Sam's health has declined, and the Norton family continues to adjust to this new normal.
- Confirmation is May 4, Synod Assembly is May 22-24, and "Beating the Bounds" will be on May 29th, ending this year at the Peel House for the dedication of the fire pit and a BBQ.

Old Business

- Pastor Travis presented the new set of drawings for the renovation of the main building. The scope has now expanded to include the Sunday School rooms/common area on the lower level. There was a lot of discussion about how long this would take, how it would be financed, and how a plan could be developed for doing this in phases. This master plan will need to be presented to the congregation in "town hall" meeting(s) before any further decisions can be made.
- The transportation committee (Joan, Bill & Larry) presented the results of their inventory of all of the vehicles that the church owns, and suggested next steps. There was consensus that the small trailer should be sold, since it is seldom used and has expensive insurance. There was also agreement that the cargo van needs to be replaced as soon as possible. The transportation committee will talk with staff members to get input on what exactly we need in a cargo van, and Kiersten volunteered to help find additional sources for purchasing a used van. Other vehicles (15-passenger van and buses) are fairly old, but have low mileage. We could look at replacing those one at a time as needed. The committee also presented a possible maintenance log/schedule that could be implemented for each vehicle.

New Business

- As required in the church constitution, we need to have an audit committee of three members that are not on church council. Jane Juris, Karolyn Smith, and Cathie John Fenell were presented as the candidates for this committee, and council approved their appointments.

Reminders

- The next council meeting will be on May 20th in the Peel House, with Zoom attendance for anyone who needs it. Kiersten Lehmkuhl will have the devotion.

"Last Chance" Updates

- Julie brought up that the number of Peel House volunteers for hosting events has been dwindling. Pastor Travis said that a training for volunteers had come up in the morning's staff meeting, so hopefully after this training the situation will improve.

Adjournment with Prayer - Pastor Travis 8:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Furstenau

Julie Furstenau
Secretary