



1515 N Cascade Ave  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

## January 27, 2026 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

### **Present**

Yoshiko Anspach, Bill Busovsky, Julie Furstenau, Stacy Gatto, Deacon Joan Kuehn, Kiersten Lehmkuhl, Chris Lieber, Pastor Travis Norton, Betsy Pimentel, Chris White

### **Absent**

Brenda Bocek

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church council was called to order by Pastor Travis at 6:59 pm.

### **Devotions (Pastor Travis)**

Pastor Travis gave everyone on council a copy of the "Pastor and Council Promises and Duties" – a reminder of what each of us has committed to in our positions. Pastor stated that he finds reviewing these occasionally is good to help focus on what he should be focused on and hopes that this will be helpful in grounding us in our responsibilities for the upcoming year.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**\*\*\*COUNCIL APPROVED DECEMBER MINUTES AS PRESENTED\*\*\***

### **Finance Committee Report**

In Brenda's absence, Pastor Travis and Yoshiko presented the financials. Pastor was pleased to report that the church had a net income of \$20,420 for the year which can be added to the reserve fund. Pastor also noted that there was about \$80K of pledged offerings that was not received; however, this was offset by \$138K in offerings from other members that gave more than they pledged. Overall, we exceeded the budget line for pledges received. Yoshiko also noted that property expenses were \$55K over budget, but this was due to a lot of maintenance being done in the past year, which is a good thing.

**\*\*\*COUNCIL APPROVED THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT\*\*\***

### **Senior Pastor Report/Old Business**

- Pastor Travis noted that we had record attendance on Christmas Eve, with over 1400 people attending! Approximately 80 people attended the inaugural contemporary Christmas Eve service, and Pastor noted that Becca had done some creative things for this service.
- Staffing changes were discussed: Becca Guerra has been hired as the permanent part-time contemporary worship minister. Lori Duncan is no longer doing the AV/tech support portion of her job, and Theresa McConnell will be moving to Arizona. A new position is being advertised for a 5-hour/week job on Sunday mornings to do AV set-up and act as a tech troubleshooter. Pastor already has one interview set up for tomorrow. There are still open positions for part-time bookkeeper, sexton, and assistant to Eric. There is approximately \$45K in the budget to fill these positions, since the contemporary worship minister position is now part-time instead of full-time.
- The Inspire Faith capital campaign is off to a great start – we already have \$4.1M committed from the lead giver group of members. The public campaign will begin in February with several items planned, culminating in an all-congregation dinner on February 26

- The renovation team is meeting regularly with CRP, and a revised plan/budget will be presented to the renovation team in a meeting on January 29.
- Season two of the “Generation to Revelation” podcast is being recorded, and the BASIC YouTube series is being re-recorded. The annual spiritual retreat is this coming Saturday.
- Pastor Travis expressed his thanks for the Christmas bonus that allowed his family to take a post-Christmas vacation to San Diego.

#### **New Business:**

- Elections were held for new council officers. Bill Buskovsky is the new Vice-President, Betsy Pimentel is the new Treasurer, and Julie Furstenau remains as secretary for a second term.
- There is potentially \$8350 that could be allocated to the Endowment Fund for this year. This would be added to the approximately \$7000 that is currently in the fund. **Council approved this allocation** and expressed a desire that there would be some additional education about this fund to the congregation in an upcoming Ekklesia.
- A Benevolence Committee is needed to do the three-year review of our ministry partners. Bill, Stacy and Chris White volunteered to head up this committee, with additional members to be recruited from the congregation.
- There is one revision needed in the 2026 budget, as Yoshiko had made a mistake that shorted the Fellowship budget line by \$10K. **Council approved** that the Fellowship budget line will be increased by \$10K, with that money coming from the excess staff fund. This will still leave \$35K for the part-time positions previously noted.
- Council discussed possible recipients of the upcoming Lenten self-denial offering. **Council decided** that the KPC Family Resource Center, which provides respite and crisis childcare, would receive this year’s offering.
- Deacon Joan, Betsy Pimentel, Chris Lieber and Stacy Gatto volunteered to be Pastor Carrie’s sabbatical committee.
- Council discussed that we really do read the staff reports that are submitted each month, even if we don’t discuss them, and hope that all staff reports will be present in future months.
- There was a discussion about recycling bins, and Yoshiko was tasked with seeing if there is a practical solution to this issue.

#### **Reminders**

- The next meeting will be on February 17, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Peel House, following the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. Bill Buskovsky will give the devotion.

**Adjournment with Prayer – Pastor Travis at 8:25 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie Furstenau*

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Secretary