



Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Summary  
May 17, 2021

Attendees: Pastor Martin Eldred, Sam Carter, Robert Coffman, Cheryl Smith, Bob Thompson, Pam Darby, Betty Skelton, Suzanne Flegal, Roy Geiger, Dick Krapf, Chris Nelson , Kathy Makowski, Jeremy Shoop

Absentees: Daniel Contreras, Dennis Pattison

**I. Call to Order**

President Sam Carter called to order the Zoom meeting (during Covid-19 pandemic) of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC) Council at 7:03 p.m.

**II. Devotions**

Bob Thompson led us in devotions.

**III. Draft Agenda**

1. Call to Order/Devotion/Prayer
2. Devotions – Bob Thompson
3. Approval of the Minutes
4. Treasurer’s Report and Approval
5. Secretary’s Report and reading of correspondence
6. Vice President Report
7. Pastor’s Report
8. Director of Music and Liturgy
9. Reports of Ministry Teams
10. Unfinished Business
11. New Business
  - a. Deb Reilly – Yoga Class permission to use parking lot
  - b. Pastor – New Welcoming Statement
  - c. Jo Roe – Re-Opening Considerations & Plans
12. Closing Prayer
13. Adjournment

**IV. Approval of Summary**

Rob Coffman brought up documentation of electronic voting. Cheryl keeps a spreadsheet listing online voting and will circulate to the Council for voting at next month’s meeting. Suzanne Flegal moved approval of the April summary. Bob Thompson seconded. The motion carried unanimously. .

**V. Secretary's Report**

No report. Cheryl noted that thank you letter notes had been sent out to the Corona team to include Shelly Eldred, Katrina Eldred and Katy Moran.

**VI. Treasurer's Report**

Bob Thompson said that the financial status is amazing. The report was circulated prior to the meeting. Bob went back to 2014 and this is the first time since then that we have been ahead. We got a nice boost with Easter. We are able to support the Synod. The finances look very nice and Holy Cross has a unique population. Rob Coffman moved approval of the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Dick Krapf. The motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Vice President's Report**

The Vice President's Report was circulated by Rob Coffman prior to the meeting. The Finance Committee is very happy with the current results. Rob had nothing additional to report other than what was in his written report.

Sam Carter said that we need to prepare a storybook about Subsplash. Sam also needs volunteers for a security team. More details are in the President's Report which was submitted prior to the meeting.

**VIII. Pastor's Report**

Pastor Martin sent out his report late. We are entering the second half of the liturgical calendar. Things are kind of ho-hum as there are no big events. This time has more to do with how we live out this faith. Pastor has put together a welcome statement for presentation to the congregation

**A Statement of Welcome**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation. In that light:

We welcome you, and you are safe with us...  
Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;  
Whatever your relationship status;  
We welcome you, and you are safe with us...  
Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;  
Whatever your socio-economic status;  
We welcome you, and you are safe with us...  
Whatever your age and life circumstance;  
Whatever your physical and mental ability.  
You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

## **IX. Director of Music and Liturgy**

Jeremy has not finalized his written report, but will get it out tomorrow. Sam Carter mentioned that Jeremy was able to procure a baby grand piano for \$1800. The funds will come from the Gouldman Fund. Our current baby grand was donated 14 years ago from the Ballou's. It is worn out and has multiple issues. This opportunity came up. It will take about three weeks to adjust to the new surroundings and then will get tuned. There is a chance that we might sell the piano in Room 202 as we now have five pianos. They are currently considering the purchase of a keyboard for outside use.

## **Ministry Teams**

Evangelism – Roy Geiger thanked members of Council who attended the lunch on Sunday. One prospective new member attended. Roy thanked Deb for making this happen.

Stewardship – Chris said they had their first hike with nine people participating. Another hike is scheduled for next weekend at Lake Fairfax..

Outreach – Suzanne Flegal circulated a report prior to the meeting. Suzanne said that the donations that are coming in continue to be overwhelming. Cub Scout Pack 1570 donated over \$600. People within the community are also donating. It's not just church members. Suzanne would like to have thank you notes sent out to the folks who are helping her distribute the donations: Dick Krapf, Cathy Pfisterer and Brian Virnelson

## **New Business**

Deb Reilly – Healthy Advantage Yoga Studio – Deb's local studio was closed down due to the pandemic. As of last week, the owner was seeking a flat area to hold the yoga classes. They were looking at the lower level of the parking lot and thought it would be idea. There would be no liability to us, the owner is very community focused and she would encourage her classes to donate to our food collections, etc. The classes would be once a week for ninety minutes and would like use of the bathroom facilities. One key would be kept at their studio. They would plan to do morning and late afternoon/evening sessions. Roy Geiger asked about them using the grassy area and Deb explained that it is too noisy near the road. Rob Coffman mentioned that this is a for-profit group. Sam Carter explained that we try to accommodate members of the congregation. Suzanne Flegal said it is excellent outreach and advertising for the church. There could be a discount for new students from Holy Cross and info would be put into their marketing materials. Motion: Move that Holy Cross allow Health Advantage Yoga Center (HAYC) to offer classes in the lower parking lot for a trial period of 3 months (June – August 2021). HAYC will add the necessary liability insurance and provide proof thereof. Suzanne Flegal moved to approve the motion and Roy Geiger seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Pastor Martin presented his welcoming statement earlier. He had some folks help kick around some ideas as a step in becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. He would like the Council to adopt this proposal but it would not be committing the congregation. It is a statement of welcome to beloved children of God. Pastor opened it up for discussion. Roy Geiger said that he would like to see Holy Cross Lutheran Church referred to rather than just Holy Cross. In starting the foundation, it will bring the congregation along and for the congregation to understand what that means.....what does it mean for us as a congregation...how are we part of a community in a mixed-race community.....intentional outreach. Roy Geiger asked if we would be in a better place to adopt it before running it by people to get their buy-in? We should allow people to have a say in it. Everyone should be involved. The question was asked if we should send something out in the next Quest as a draft. Roy said he thinks a Temple Talk by the Pastor or somebody should be held first. It needs to be interpreted before putting it in print. Dick Krapf said it is an iterative process and that it may take

some steps for people to take it seriously. Roy Geiger said it would be ideal to bring it up at a mid-year presentation. Pastor Martin said it would be followed up in the summer (July, August, September), as a congregational journey to go through this. Sam Carter mentioned that the congregation needs to meet to replace Rob Coffman as a trustee and to replace the constitution with some housekeeping formalities as well. A motion was made by Roy Geiger for Pastor Martin to move forward with a draft document and seconded by Rob Coffman. The motion passed unanimously.

Jo Roe briefly put together a presentation compiled by people in the medical field regarding the safety of re-opening after the pandemic. She said that a phased approach to opening up is recommended. We should continue with the hybrid course: everyone would wear a mask. There is still a risk with singing. There are still some questions regarding transmission around younger members. There are not that many adolescences in the congregation. The drop off seems to be around 10 or 11 years of age. Pastor Martin said we will continue with hybrid worship for the immediate future and possibly forever. In regards to asking people if they have been vaccinated, Bob Thompson said that trying to get information from people could be considered invasive or intrusive. Online worship has been beneficial for people outside the congregation. Singing is the problem. Suzanne Flegal said that it should be left up to the individuals to make the decision. We cannot discount people's ability to make their own decisions. Sam Carter said that vaccinated people are at lower risk and asked if we can make people wear a mask. Suzanne went on to say that in-person worship means so much to people and that is an important aspect. Pastor Martin said that people have to decide if they would feel uncomfortable being here if someone was not wearing a mask. There is no stigma to wearing a mask and you're welcome to wear a mask. The question was asked if it would make sense to go back to two services. That would make for smaller groups. Suzanne said it needs to be put forth to the congregation for their input. She thinks we need to ponder this. Bob Thompson suggested a mini-Temple Talk and ask people for emails to let us know their thoughts. Sam Carter asked who would do the Temple Talk. Sam thanked Jo, Carol Shaffer and Lori and Wayne Newcomb for putting together the information that Jo presented.

Roy Geiger asked who is going to the Synod convention. They couldn't get any volunteers so just Pastor Martin is going. He will be dialing in virtually from Alaska. Pastor Martin said he made many calls and that both he and Sam Carter tried to get people to go. It was stated that at the November meeting, we will need to vote on who we will send to the next convention. This is the process that has been done in the past.

Rob Coffman suggested a congregational picnic in June or July to talk about RIC in person. Perhaps something around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with a tent. Sam Carter said that he will look into it. Officially or unofficially, we need to get these topics going.

Sam mentioned that Council terms will be expiring and he is making a request for people to serve on the Council. Sam also stated that a "Storyboard" needs to be prepared regardless of vendor for consistent messaging across our social media platforms. Volunteers are still needed to Technology Team in the following areas: strategy development, solution evaluation, network management, security cameras, data management and security and video operations. Help is also need with Security Grant applications(s). Sam's full report was submitted electronically prior to the meeting.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting ended with a closing prayer by Pastor Martin. Suzanne Flegal made a motion to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Betty Skelton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **REMINDERS:**

Devotions

June – Dick Krapf

July – Kathy Makowski

### Meetings

June 14 – ExComm (7 p.m.)

June 21 – Council Meeting (7 p.m.)

July 12 – ExComm (7 p.m.)

July 19 – Council Meeting (7 p.m.)