



Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Summary  
October 18, 2021

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

**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 7:00 p.m.

**II. Devotions**

Betty Skelton led us in devotions. Pastor Martin led us in prayer.

**III. Draft Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Devotions
3. Approval of the minutes
4. Treasurer's Report and Approval
5. Director of Music & Liturgy Report
6. Pastor's Report
7. Reading of correspondence
8. Reports of ministry teams
9. Finance Committee Report
10. Unfinished business
  1. 2022 Budget Approval
  2. BSA -
    - a. Troop 12 Charter Renewal
    - b. Request from Troop 157 – Wayne Newcomb
    - c. Should we officially engage legal counsel?
  3. Building Use Policy – Limit to non-profits?
  4. RIC Resolution/Recommendation

New business

1. Constitution & By-Laws Recommendation/Meeting
2. Worshipping Organization Use - Approval by Congregation?
3. Parking Lot use -
  - a. Policy on Parking of Commercial Vehicles
  - b. Request for Troop 157 Christmas Tree Sale
4. Building Use -
  - a. Request for private birthday party

- b. Limit use to religious & non-profits?
  - c. Require Certificate of Insurance Naming HCLC as Add'l Insured?
11. Closing prayer
12. Adjournment

**IV. Approval of Summary**

Suzanne Flegal moved approval of the September summary. Betty Skelton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Bob Thompson submitted his report prior to the meeting. He noted that this year's year-to-date donations have been unbelievable and we are looking good.

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

Jeremy Shoop sent his written report before the meeting. He reminded people that Beer and Carols has been scheduled on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern in Herndon. The Sanctuary Choir will begin practicing in November and will sing at the First Sunday of Advent service in December.

**VI. Pastor's Report**

Pastor Martin sent out his report prior to the meeting. He provided an overview of the beginning of the book Council has been asked to read entitled *Canoeing the Mountains*.

**VII. Reports of Ministry Teams**

**Outreach** – Suzanne Flegal sent out her report and had no additional comments.

**Worship** – Kathy Makowski had nothing to add to her report.

**Education** – Betty Skelton submitted her report. She added that if the weather supports an event in December, a St. Lucia celebration will be held.

**Stewardship** – Chris Nelson noted that he will go into the church to review the pledge cards.

**Property** – Sam Carter changed the filters in the air conditioning unit. Deb Reilly is trying to organize a work day on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Pest control has notified us that the bushes around the exterior need to be trimmed back to prevent rodents from getting inside the building.

**Finance** - Rob Coffman thanked Sam for getting out the budget. The recommended changes in the budget are: ministry, personnel (increased salaries 3% for staff; 1% for nursery attendant and 2% for bookkeeper). The Synod benevolence has been brought back and was increased by 50%. Suzanne Flegal moved to approve the budget as proposed. Roy Geiger seconded. There was no discussion and the budget is approved unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

Troop 12 Charter renewal. Troop 157 currently meeting at UMUC is looking for a new church home. However, they were just told that they may meet at UMUC for another year. Sam Carter has been working with someone he knows about the legal side of the troop meeting at HCLC. We should be covered, if one of the active leaders is present during meetings. We are taking a calculated risk with disabled kids. It is recommended that we follow the method as building use and not a charter. Roy Geiger raised a question regarding family members participating. If someone from our congregation is a member of Troop 12, they

have to be a participant and not serve in name only. Chris Nelson has been involved on some calls. The insurance that is in place should cover costs. They have newer trainers and new protocols in place to protect children. Sam Carter said he received similar information. We should try to continue to sponsor Troop 12 and get a troop leader to become a member of Holy Cross so that we can then give them a building use approval. Pastor Martin mentioned that there are lawyers out there who specialize in suing churches. He said it's OK to be cautious, but we must do what is best for all. Chris Nelson said we should table the Troop 157 conversation and discuss closer to April 2022. Sam Carter said he thinks the Boy Scouts may need to change the language in their charter. It was recommended that we approve Troop 12, but they need to have a member of our church be an active participant. We will table the discussion for Troop 157 until later. Roy Geiger moved for approval, seconded by Chris Nelson. It was mentioned that the troop must assign a member of the congregation and work with Ann Geiger. Pastor Martin mentioned that the Boy Scouts have changed their insurance liability. They have taken out the liability part of their charter.

The building use policy was brought up regarding use for a private birthday party. There is concern about exposure if use is not a community activity. We do require a certificate of insurance. Lopez is on the edge, but they do have an insurance certificate and they do pay rent. They are probably fine for building use for community use. We want to institute a policy that we are not a party place. If someone is asking to rent and we don't know them and they are without a relationship, we would deny. If there is a relationship, would we consider? Bob Thompson mentioned that we used to have a form noting the church sponsor. It might be good to revert back to having a sponsor. Wedding and church-related activities are OK. Use of the parking lot came up. Rob made a motion that any unauthorized, overnight parking regardless whether the vehicle is commercial or personal not be permitted to park anywhere on the premises. Suzanne Flegal seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The constitution changes will be postponed until January.

## **Adjourn**

Suzanne Flegal moved to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Roy Geiger seconded.

## **REMINDERS:**

### Devotions

November – Daniel Contreras

December – Cheryl Smith

### Meetings

November 8 – ExComm (7 p.m.)

November 15 – Council Meeting (7 p.m.)

December 14 – ExComm (7 p.m.)

December 21 – Council Meeting (7 p.m.)