

LLB Meeting Minutes: October 2022 (Approved 12-6-2022)

Subject/Purpose: Regular monthly meeting

Date: Monday, October 24, 2022

Time: 5:30 PM

Place: Meeting Space 3, Christ Lincoln Sumner

Zoom connection:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85206316652?pwd=U0llejBweXFMcTRLbjJCOTluSGIBUT09>

Participants: indicates attendance

Members: Jud Jesske (Chair), Vacant (Vice-Chair), Rick Stowell (Secretary), Kyle Kaldahl (Treasurer)
 Chris Cox, Heidi Cuca, Jeff Lake, Gary Pickering, Kristy Plander, Shayla Reed

Executive staff: Michael Eckelkamp, Mike Milbourn

Desired Outcomes of the meeting:

- DoM and other leaders have feedback and direction desired to advance highlighted ministry items
- Preparations are advanced for congregational meeting

Agenda items

Call to order / Opening prayer: Jud opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and Pastor E. gave a short devotion.

Minutes from prior meeting: Heidi moved (Gary 2nd) to approve the September meeting minutes. Motion carried wo/dissent.

Business Item:	Purpose: Inform/Discuss/Decide	Material provided prior to meeting	Duration
1. Financial report	Inform		15 min

Kyle noted that:

- FOC has received updated budgetary info from Christ Schools.
- Harger Group has been slow in their response [due to a staff health issue] for recent requests for info.
- We are +\$200k on budget through September.

Discussion: Jud encouraged us to get the [Harger-] reviewed 2021-22 fiscal-year report posted on our website. Some threads were discussed for getting through/past the current delay with Harger Group.

Recommendations:

- Post 2021-22 fiscal-year report.
- Pursue options with Harger Group to jump-start progress.

2. DoM report	Discuss and provide feedback	Preliminary drawings and budgets	30 min
---------------	------------------------------	----------------------------------	--------

Financial viability:

Pastor E. has been meeting with directors and campus pastors about CL being more purposeful in financially supporting the work of our congregation.

Sanctuary pastor:

Pastor E. said that Pastor Schnacke has approached him about transitioning from campus pastor role to a non-pastoral, part-time role. Pastor E. recommended that we initiate the call process for a full-time pastor to serve Sanctuary worship.

Discussion: We discussed process. There are a few definite qualities needed for this position, but the scenario is unique, so it may take some time and effort to identify a candidate pool. Shayla moved (Heidi 2nd) to affirm Pastor E. assembling a call committee and initiating the process – as of January 2023 – to bring on a full-time pastor for Sanctuary worship. Motion passed unanimously.

Capital campaign:

Pastor E. highlighted how deferred maintenance is a significant challenge; is not reflecting well on us to neighbors and the larger community. Space is also an issue – especially limiting for youth programs, nursery care, and bible studies.

He said that paying off the Sumner loan is a goal we should look to meet and celebrate.

Pastor described options for facility expansion and associated preliminary budgets. He asked for feedback on: Should we proceed? What info do we want next?

Discussion: The following were raised as needing attention:

- Must communicate well the story behind the need to expand.
- Flesh out the stated priorities that were not included in the presented info (3rd floor, artificial turf).
- Provide more info on school-church relationships – current and going forward.
- Develop plans for managing maintenance and capital improvement needs.
- Develop FAQ and communicate responses.

Overall, LLB members presented favorable views of the direction for the proposed capital campaign but were not comfortable approving a plan yet.

Lincoln Lutheran assessment:

Pastor E. reported that CL is not proposing revision of the fee structure used by the Lincoln Lutheran School Association at the current time. Currently, CL is assessed \$35 per congregant member and pays tuition support on a per-student basis, which result in CL contributing an unsustainably large portion of Lincoln Lutheran’s annual funding. He stated that CL is providing notification that we are initiating the process to leave the Association. Notice must be provided 3 years in advance of exiting. He re-emphasized that our intent is not to leave, but we need to force the issue with the Association to negotiate a change to the financial-support model, since otherwise there is no motivation for the Association to act.

Discussion: Feedback reflected agreement with the plan as described. However, communication will be very important, given that many members of the congregation highly value Lutheran schools, specifically Lincoln Lutheran. The following communication needs were highlighted:

- Messaging on our intent, and
- Having a communication plan, including talking points and video presentations.

Decision/Recommendations:

- Approved initiating the process for calling a full-time pastor for Sanctuary worship.
- Pursue items requested to flesh out proposed capital campaign in more detail.
- Work on communication and messaging related to the value and challenge of supporting Lincoln Lutheran.

3. COO report

Update and discuss

Separate written report available

15 in

Mike directed us to items in his written report for information on several items, including open positions and security. He prioritized discussion of needs for space and deferred maintenance:

- After taking another, more-critical look, it was decided to remove the house on 42nd St. rather than make the previously approved repairs, as needed repairs were more extensive than first projected.
- A lot of critical maintenance is being deferred on our main facility at the Sumner campus. He recommended that we approve allocating \$200,000 of current cash to address critical needs.

Discussion:

Following some discussion of details about the needed repairs and where funds existed, Gary moved (Heidi 2nd) to approve using 20k remaining in Capital Improvement plus contingency funds up to a combined total of \$200,000 to address prioritized maintenance needs.

Follow-up discussion occurred on the:

- Status of current debt-reduction campaign (Yankee Hill). It's in the home-meeting phase; too soon to assess progress.
- Use of contingency funds → capital improvement/campaign, deferred maintenance. We need to better define how to use/manage these funds in the future.

Decision/Recommendations:

- Approved use of \$200,000 in existing funds for prioritized deferred maintenance.
- Continue efforts to improve our ability to identify needs and facilitate timely maintenance of our facilities.

4. Cong. Meeting	Finalize agenda	Drafts of presentation materials	10 min
-------------------------	-----------------	----------------------------------	--------

Jud confirmed that the Congregational Meeting will be in the Sanctuary (Tuesday, 11/1, 6:00 PM).

The finalized agenda:

- Policy amendments (Shayla)
 - Process
 - Describe how announced and steps that will need to occur
 - Act on amendments one at a time
 - Vote using a paper ballot sheet
 - Constitutional changes
 - Bylaws changes
- Elections (Jud)
 - Members
 - Officers
- Minutes for approval (Rick)
- Treasurer report (Kyle or designee)
- DoM report (Pastor E.)
 - Ministry update
 - New staff / director introductions

Discussion: Kristy is working with Josiah and Shayla to get presentation and handouts prepared, so all who are looking to include content were encouraged to communicate with her ASAP. We considered it advisable to do a dry run before the meeting.

Decision/Recommendations:

- Agenda was finalized
- Decided to do a dry run after adjournment, since availability to meet at another time was limited.

Adjourn / Closing prayer Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.