

Minutes for Council Meeting of Gold Hill Lutheran Church  
For June 11, 2019

1. **Meeting called to order** at 6:02 pm by Council President Mike Lawson
2. **Attending:** Mike Lawson, Curt Quist, Revonda Stordahl, Julie Corbin, Lynn Aniksdal, Chris Ketchum, and Pastor Laurie. **Excused:** Peggy Graving
3. **Devotions:** Pastor Laurie lead us in devotions based on Romans 5:-1-5. The main message being that out of suffering comes hope. The character of the Congregation is strengthened. We are there.
4. **Approval of the Minutes:** Curt moved and Lynn seconded to approve the minutes of the May council meeting as corrected via email. Motion carried.
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
  - a. Revonda stated that we are income over budget for the month of May but still below budget for the year. Currently \$9000 over.
    - i. Portico was not paid in February as their billing cycles are behind. They have caught up now, but their process doesn't match ours, so we just pay what they say.
    - ii. Revonda paid the second half of the tax assessments.
    - iii. Property Insurance went up to \$955 month from previous bill of around \$700. Curt will find out why. This is paid quarterly, and while we were expecting a bit of an increase, this was a large one. We have only had 1 claim and that was for the garage at the parsonage, but it was only about \$500. It \$200 per quarter from last year and not sure why. It has gone up twice this year.
    - iv. Question about what professional services line on budget. This is Mark Rule and he bills quarterly.
    - v. Curt moved and Julie seconded that we approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.
  - b. Revonda met with the audit committee. Marshall Michelson will write the report up and send it out. He still has to meet with Dorothy Tallon regarding the counters as Revonda isn't involved with that and couldn't answer some questions.
    - i. Suggest that password policy be updated so that they are changed regularly.
    - ii. Record Retention policy needs to be drafted
    - iii. Need a list of assets
2. **Pastor's Report** – There is a handout with specific details if needed.
  - a. Transition Team – Potluck will be held on Sunday, July 21 after getting completed responses from last survey sent to congregation. If they haven't attended church at Gold Hill recently, then they don't need to fill out the survey. Survey deadline is June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm. Dale Schultz will compile results. Report will go first to council and then to congregation. Then the Call Committee will receive it. This officially ends the Transition Team.
    - i. There will be a prayer vigil on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> for prayers during the call process and as the congregation moves forward into the new life God is leading us to. Holden Evening Prayer service will be used, no sermon.
    - ii. Call committee is starting in August.
      1. It was moved by Curt and seconded by Chris that the council member for the call committee be Lynn Aniksdal. Motion carried. She accepted.
      2. It was moved by Curt and seconded by Julie that the member of the call committee from the Transition Team be Bruce Graving. Motion carried. If Bruce says no, then we will re-vote at the July council meeting.
      3. Pastor Laurie will convene the Call Committee, but is then out of the process. In her upcoming role as Synod Bishop, she would be a conflict of interest so Jason (assistant to the Bishop) would be the point person for any issues or questions that arise. Dale has info on the process that is step by step and has been on previous call committees, however, it will be up to the Call Committee to elect the chair for themselves.
  - b. YAGM –
    - i. On June 23, Jackie Stenberg will be here to meet us. She is the Montana-based rep for YAGM and is from Kalispell. She will be here at coffee hour. She will be meeting with Gloria Dei during their worship service. She will be going to Rwanda for a year.
    - ii. \$500 was given for her from the budget, \$500 from the trust and a free will offering will be taken on June 23 for more. The goal was \$1500 so we only have \$500 to go.

- c. Spotlight Ministry:
  - i. Details are on handout from Pastor Laurie. Temple talks coming up.
    - 1. July – Trust committee
    - 2. August – Curt for Administrative Director job duties and policies
- d. Synod Assembly
  - i. Thanks to Kay and Paul Vang for filling in at worship service on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - ii. Pastor Laurie submitted the book from the Assembly “Meet the Future Boldly” with all the reports from the meeting. Julie has the copy currently and will get it to Peggy Graving.
    - 1. Resolutions passed and they will be creating a team to focus on dealing with racism, and on to focus on climate change. These are to create conversations, not to challenge anyone’s livelihood or beliefs. Just sharing information.
  - iii. Pastor Laurie presented the letter from the synod that arrived prior to the assembly noting that they are grateful for all the support but are still suffering. Synod has decreased support for missions. Laurie gave the letter to council and Julie will get it to Peggy Graving for the records.
    - 1. In 2017 – there were 9,163 congregations in the ELCA
    - 2. In 2017 – there were 346,000 members in the ELCA
    - 3. In 2017 – 25% of these congregations didn’t baptize anyone.
    - 4. In 2017 – 51% of these congregations didn’t confirm anyone. Gold Hill falls into this group.
    - 5. Numbers are not yet available for 2018, so the numbers for 2019 when we did actually have 7 confirmands, will not be released until approximately 2021.
    - 6. As a council, we need to be aware that the church is changing. We need to think of new ways to minister. Synods may merge (i.e. - there are 2 just in the Twin Cities, 1 for Minneapolis and 1 for St. Paul)
    - 7. Priority for congregations:
      - a. Vitality
      - b. Improve leadership skills of lay people, not just pastors
  - iv. Effects of the election at Synod Assembly
    - 1. Pastor Laurie’s last day is July 28<sup>th</sup>
    - 2. Pastor Laurie will be on vacation from June 24<sup>th</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup>.
    - 3. Motion was made by Julie and seconded by Chris to move executive committee meeting to July 9<sup>th</sup> and regular council meeting for July to July 16<sup>th</sup> in order to allow for 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and still get things completed in time for report at potluck on July 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - v. Security
    - 1. Pastor Laurie plays detective.
      - a. Pastor discovered that no one is trying to break into the church. She heard a click on the video that previously had been thought to be someone trying the door lock. It was the ashtray by the door opening. She verified by opening it herself and the sound matches the video. After further review, she realized that the guys she has been watching have been using the ashtray by the North door as a drug drop spot. One will put something in and within 24 hours, another comes to remove it. She verified this on video. Pastor Laurie notified the police and the ashtray has also been removed. Gold Hill smokers can stand by the dumpster.
      - b. On a similar note, there are suspicious vehicles parked in the parking lot every weekend. Possibly drug sales there as well.
  - vi. Pastor Activities.
    - 1. No adult faith formation for the summer.
    - 2. Memorial services for Grace Davis on June 29 and Howard Lawson on July 5<sup>th</sup>
    - 3. Gold Hill visits group continues to do a great job reaching out.
    - 4. Stewardship – will need to find new and innovative ways to create interest and get results.
  - e. Music - Dave Coleman is interested in playing piano, acoustic groups, and choir. Pastor only asked about his interest and abilities, not a formal interview. Revonda suggested that the music and ministry team meet with his as well. Summer music is already planned.

### 3. Reports

- a. **Mike Lawson** – Committee is needed to review membership rolls. 2 or 3 people. Lynn Aniksdal volunteered. They will talk to Jeanette Nielsen. Currently listed at over 500 and not that many are currently active.
  - b. **Curt Quist** –
    - i. Met with Trust Committee. Good discussion on whether or not to keep trust. Questions on what they would do with \$2000 for mission outside of church? There will be a form at the potluck. If we could spend the money any way we wanted, what would we do? Trust committee wants council to know that there is money available for ministry and mission. I.e. - Bible school next year, YAGM, etc. Get the congregation excited about doing ministry and missions. Excited here and excited to give. Trust was not designed to be a rainy day fund. Will get education and excitement out there.
    - ii. ELCA – child abuse policy document was emailed. Need to decide which option on page 7. If known sexual offenders want to join or participate. Julie moved and Curt seconded that we accept option 2. Julie is willing to have background check for working with kids. May need to require it from everyone working with children. Curt recommends that the policy/procedure manual be read and signed off by all council members yearly.
  - c. **Lynn Aniksdal** –
    - i. Trees in front of church will be down beginning Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. One tree per day and should be done by Wednesday or Thursday of that week. Stump removal will begin July 1<sup>st</sup> barring any conflicts.
    - ii. Zack Johnson bid \$5000 for new sprinkler on both properties. He will invoice based on the work actually performed. The other bid came in at \$5200. Curt moved and Julie seconded that Zack be hired for the sprinkling system. Motion carried.
    - iii. Had an arbor expert come in to see what trees would be could here.
    - iv. True Green will spray this week.
    - v. 75% of lights have been changed in the church. Only the sanctuary is left.
    - vi. Questions came up on where the money comes from for the trees and sprinklers. It will come from the Building Fund. This is a preventative measure and needs to be done before a tree falls and causes more damage, or the roots damage the foundation. Some discussion on Thrivent Funds having a fund so congregation knows what is being donated.
  - d. **Chris Ketchum** –
    - i. Enhancing the sanctuary for Pentecost has been done and Trinity Sunday. Will be decorating in colors of the season for summer.
    - ii. Worship and Ministry will have a day to repair banners and clean altar cloths.
    - iii. Shelly Clark left a file in the music room for the next musician. Organ needs to be tuned in 2020 and funds will need to come from budget.
    - iv. Music is scheduled through the summer and into Fall 2019.
    - v. Ginger DeWitt wants a prayer service July 17<sup>th</sup>. We discussed this previously.
    - vi. Next meeting for this committee is scheduled for July 4<sup>th</sup>, so it has been canceled.
    - vii. People like the roving greeters, but volunteers are quitting so they are looking for new people to do it.
  - e. **Julie Corbin** –
    - i. Theology on Tap – Patti Callahan currently at Gloria Dei would like to be invited next time. Successful in May with only 3 participants as Julie was the only one from Gold Hill but there was an agnostic and a Catholic at the discussion about whether or not Hollywood gets it right with Heaven and Hell.
    - ii. Gearing up for VBS. Gloria Dei has pledged to pay half but it is held at Gold Hill this year and majority of volunteers are from our church this year.
- ### 4. New Business:
- a. Call Committee - discussed previously
- ### 5. Old Business:
- a. Meeting with other churches not held. They had a unanimous call for new pastor at Gloria Dei. Waiting to see if it was accepted.
  - b. Jerry Aaker's replacement for Outreach Ministry. Karen Galpin and Linda Williamson have turned down the placement. Jon Williamson may be interested though. It is only 6 months and Jerry continues to be a consultant and "idea guy".

c. Replacement for Music was previously discussed.

Moved to adjourn by Julie, seconded by Chris. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted in Peggy's absence,  
Julie Corbin, Spiritual Formation Leader