

MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Tallahassee, FL. January 9, 2022

PRESENT: Beth Alexander, Margaret Bowers, Jennifer Buchanan, David Butler, Jennifer Dritt, Rita Ford, Tom Holdcraft, Sharon Simmons, Val Sullivan, and Paul van der Mark

DEVOTION AND PRAYER

MINUTES: November minutes approved via email

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (see attached)

- a. Worship and Music
 - a. The fellowship hall has worked out well for worship.
 - b. Still taking volunteers to assist with worship.
- b. Outreach
 - a. Asked to join in Bethel AME's outreach efforts again
- c. Buildings and Grounds
 - a. See report
- d. Education and Discipleship
- e. Mutual Ministry
- f. Communications
 - a. Things seem to be going well with the Facebook feed.
- g. Care and Hospitality

TREASURER'S REPORT

1. See report
2. Actual expenses have been lower than budget in most categories, except for repair/maintenance/supplies, which has been used to pay bills for renovations
3. The amount of cash on hand (\$72,753.90, excluding Building Fund) is substantive, especially compare with the past history of St. Stephen. Some bills will still need to be paid for renovations.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Updated Budget for 2022
 1. Proposed 2022 budget will be sent out prior to congregational meeting.
 2. Committee reports will be included.
 3. Includes a large expense for replacing the west door leading to the mailbox, which poses a security risk - \$4300.
 4. Treasurer provided estimates of what it would cost to raise Pastor's salary by %% and 7%. After discussion, the group voted to recommend that the 7% figure be included in the budget proposed to the congregation.
- b. Reconciling Sunday 1/30/2022 – guest speaker Zoe Williams
- c. Update on Sanctuary
 1. It looks beautiful!

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2. Target date to repopulate is January 23.

- d. Ministry Endowment
 1. Proposed (and to be funded by) a couple who are members.
 2. Goal is to enhance the ministry of St. Stephen, particularly in the area of mission work.
 3. Endowment would be overseen by a committee chosen by the congregation and managed by a reputable investment firm.
 4. Council voted to accept the proposed ministry endowment, with the stipulation that it be managed in accordance with ELCA guidelines.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Council positions to be filled: President, Communications
 1. Audrey Post has volunteered to serve as Communications council member.
 2. Members, especially those who have served in a leadership capacity at St. Stephen previously, are asked to give prayerful consideration to stepping forward.
- b. Assembly Representatives: Adults, youth
- c. Congregational meeting 1/23/22
- d. Projects to be addressed in 2022
 1. Building and Grounds Report has ideas listed in priority order.
 2. Chairs for the newly-renovated sanctuary were discussed; a sample will arrive soon.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: February 13,

- Committee reports due to Lori the Wednesday prior to the Council meeting.

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED BY 1/14/22

OFF THE RECORD

CLOSING PRAYER