

**Hope Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday, August 19, 2023**

Present: Cynthia Cantelon, Peter Clark, Bill Fehr, Jan Nilsson, Gerry Owen, Doug Roszmann, Ray Schultz, Audrey Strauss, Randi Turner

Excused: Pastor Terry Richardson

1. Opening Prayer
  2. Review of Agenda. Doug asked to add under New Business: Sharing from the ELCIC Convention - Assembly 2023.
  3. Minutes of Previous Minutes
    - a. **Motion to adopt the minutes of Special E-Meeting July 23, 2023/s/c. (approve Alan and Janel Cross for membership in Hope Lutheran Church by Affirmation of Faith on Sunday, August 6, 2023)**
    - b. **Motion to adopt the minutes of June 17, 2023/s/c.**
  4. Pastor's Report  
**Motion to receive the report/s/c.**
  5. Governance
    - a. Budget submissions for next AGM. Ray had the secretary send a notice to all committee chairs for committees to send in their budget submissions by September 15, 2023. He will ask the secretary to send out a second notice.
    - b. Request from user groups. Council decided that the user groups may store their bicycles in the downstairs hallway clear from the exits. After a long discussion the council decided that companion pets may not be brought into the church as we have to balance the needs of all of the building users. Some users may have sensitivities, allergies or other issues related to pet dander.  
**That Council approves the request of user groups to store bicycles in the church during meetings on the condition that:**
      - **Bicycles are brought into the building on the lower floor**
- **The bicycles are stored on the lower floor in a manner that leaves clear passage and access to all exit doors, and**
  - **Users are responsible to keep the floors and walls clear of markings and debris.**

**That Council respond to the request to bring companion pets into the church during meetings as follows:**

- **The Church Council is appreciative of the place and purpose of companion pets in the lives of their owners, and**
- **Council is also appreciative of the health concerns of many participants and users of our building who deal with significant allergies and auto-immune diseases**
- **In balancing all of these interests it is the decision of Council to not allow companion pets inside the church during or in connection with meetings.**

- c. Coffee cups and communion glasses. The temporary paper and plastic cups used during Covid-19 have been replaced by china coffee cups and glass communion glasses.
  - d. Ensure filing of GST report. The report will be filed by the treasurer when the Sage reports are complete.
6. Correspondence. There was no correspondence.
7. Old Business
  - a. Policy Manual report. Jan has completed the review of the Policy manual and Doug will post it on the church website.
  - b. Insurance renewal. The church insurance has been renewed. The high cost of insurance was discussed. We need to do a critical review of the insurance rates and coverage by policy providers prior to the due date next year. Ray will put this discussion on the March agenda.
8. Committee Reports
  - a. Continual Learning: Shirley Forwell. Emailed and attached.
  - b. Fellowship/Membership: Bill Fehr. There was no report.
  - c. Financial Stewardship: Jan Nilsson.  
**Moved that the online copy of the Policy Manual will be the current copy and that only one printed copy will be available in the office/s/c.**
  - d. Property: Doug Roszmann. There was no report.
  - e. Witness and Mission: Audrey Strauss. There was no report.  
**Move that September 24, 2023 be designated as CLWR Sunday/s/c.**
  - f. Worship: Peter Clark. Emailed and attached. In addition to the report it was noted that since there are no longer any Canadian sources for materials, the cost of items have increased (due to payment in US dollars).  
**Move that we resume pre pandemic practices for communion and coffee/s/c.**  
The shortage of helpers for communion and coffee service was discussed. Ray will contact the Mutual Ministry committee to look into recruiting helpers for the various activities that need help.  
**Motion to receive the reports/s/c.**
9. Treasurer's Report: Gerry Owen. Emailed and attached.  
**Motion to receive the report/s/c.**
10. New Business. Sharing from the ECIC Convention- Assembly 2023. The assembly discussed many important issues including racism, ableism, LBGTQ and global warming. These issues are huge and can be very overwhelming. Taking a small step forward, perhaps looking at racism, what is something that we, as a congregation, can do to make this a comfortable place for all? Would this be a topic for Continual Learning or Witness and Mission? Ray will put this on next month's agenda to discuss further.
11. Next Meeting Dates  
**Executive: Friday, September 15, 2023 @ 10:30 am**  
**Council: Saturday, September 23, 2023 @ 9 am**

12. Closing Prayer
13. Adjournment @ 10:18 am

#### **Action**

1. **Ray to ask the secretary to ask committee chairs to send in their budget submissions for the next AGM.**
2. **Gerry to file the GST report.**
3. **Doug to post the Policy Manual on the church website.**
4. **Ray to put a discussion on insurance rates and coverage on the March agenda.**
5. **Ray to contact the Mutual Ministry committee to look into recruiting helpers in various activities - communion and coffee service, counters, ushers, etc.**
6. **Ray to put a discussion on addressing how to make the church a more welcoming place for all.**