

**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 17, 2017**

*Minutes (approved 9/21/17)*

**Call to Order**

President Emily Fischer called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Present:

Emily Fischer, President  
Bruce Johnson, Vice-President  
Steve Behrenbrinker, Treasurer  
Susan Douma  
Deb Anderson  
April Leeb  
Linda Carr  
Janet Tilstra  
Roberta Schiel  
Pastor Marlene Elmstrom  
Doug Miller

Absent

Holly Palmersten, Secretary  
Jerry Nelson

Staff Present: Eric Blake – Interim Administrator

**Devotion and Opening Prayer**

Pastor Marlene led the Council in a centering prayer.

**Approval of agenda**

Steve moved to approve the agenda, April seconded. Agenda approved without objection.

**Sue moved, Roberta seconded**

**Approval of minutes** of July 20, 2017. It was requested that “Ampe” be added to Joel’s name. The date of the financial report was changed from February to June. Sue moved to approve the minutes as amended. Roberta seconded. Motion passed without objection.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Sue moved to approve the consent agenda. Steve seconded. Motion passed without objection.

**Reports**

*Pastor’s Report:* Pastor Marlene informed the Council there is a wedding coming up. The arrangement with the Montessori School fell through for this year. She is beginning work on fall preparations, including volunteers who will help with the Adult Forum. Several events are coming up at Salem and elsewhere related to Reformation. Personnel Committee work continues. She mentioned that Pastor Denise Hansen from Living Waters would like to use the Salem Chapel for a Spiritual Practices study. (Details were discussed and the idea will be explored further.) Pastor Marlene noted she has a vacation coming up.

**(Note:** in an e-mail exchange following the Council meeting, Pastor Marlene asked to include in this report her grateful acknowledgement to the Vacation Bible School recently held at Salem. She noted this was a time of faith-filled learning and joy and gave a special THANK YOU to Jodi & Adam Burling and all the crew leaders/mentors/helpers and children that made *Maker Factory* such a beautiful witness to the love of God that is given in Jesus.)

*Interim Administrator Report:* Eric Blake reported he and his team are cleaning his office and moving some things into and out of the adjacent office. He noted Salem paid \$5,000 in Benevolence. He is currently working on nursery policies & procedures as well as staffing now that some nursery attendants have gone off to college. Eric is also looking for a volunteer to lead night watch. Sunday Nights at Salem starts up again on Sept. 10 and the team is looking for help setting up each evening before it begins.

*Financial Report July 2017:*

Steve reviewed highlights. He noted giving has much improved compared with last year at this time. The Maintenance Expense remains high for the year. Hope for the Future is at 31% of our goal with 16% participation (so far).

### **Committee Reports**

*Executive Committee:* Emily referred the Council to the Executive Committee minutes provided.

*Personnel Committee:* Emily reported on the status of job descriptions. When completed, meetings with staff will be arranged, then work will begin on revising the Personnel Manual.

*Stewardship Committee:* Deb reported the Committee is talking about a Stewardship emphasis in the fall, culminating with something on All Saints Sunday celebration including some kind of commitment card. The theme will be “Gather Us In.”

*Property Committee:* The Committee is waiting for a bid from Weidner’s on chimney repairs.

*Nominating Committee:* Susan reported there are four terms up this year. Hoping they will renew—Susan will contact them by the next Council meeting.

*Foundation:* Janet said the Scholarship Team is updating the application process. Steve and Karla are looking at audit, investment and giving policies along with reviewing the budget and developing better documentation. All Foundation Benevolences are paid out for the year.

*Call Committee:* Emily reported the Committee has voted to recommend a candidate and informed the Council it will need to schedule a Special Congregational Meeting specifically for issuing a Call. It looks like Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> is the best option. Timing will be an issue, and it seems that after the 10:30 service is the best option.

### **Old Business**

*Sr. Pastor Call Process:* Bruce moved that a Special Congregational Meeting specifically for issuing a Call be scheduled for Sept. 10 at 1 PM. Steve second. There was considerable discussion about the options. The motion carried with five in favor, four opposed and 2 abstained.\* It was noted that there will be an August 24 Skype with the candidate to discuss the details of the candidate’s participation in the Meeting.

*Hope for the Future.* As of mid-July, we are at \$14,013 for the Hope for the Future budget. There is a fall fundraising event coming up on Oct. 14. Volunteers will be needed for an organizing team. Emily, April and Steve volunteered. Celebrate Summer at Salem had great turn-out, a lot of fun. Mixed group from both services. Thanks to everyone who helped make it happen. It is hoped this will become an annual event.

### **New Business**

*Pastoral Internship.* Pastor. Marlene was contacted by a candidate in a seminary ordination program requesting an internship at Salem. She is not sure if Salem is able to work with an intern in this time of transition. After considerable discussion, Bruce moved the opportunity be referred to the Personnel Committee to gather more information about the idea and bring it back to the Council for further consideration. Second by Deb. Motion carried without objection.

### **Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

Steve moved to adjourn the meeting. Susan seconded. Motion passed without objection. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM and concluded with the Lord’s Prayer.

\*There will be a note of explanation in the October Council minutes clarifying this vote tally for the special meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Johnson  
Substituting for Salem Council Secretary, Holly Palmersten