

PALM VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

January 10, 2024 | 6:30 pm | Conference Room

G.R.A.C.E.

Grow in Faith
Reach the Community
provide **A**we-inspiring Worship
Connect in Small Groups
Exceptional Serving

Call to Order

Approve Agenda

Devotion – Sue Rue

Consent Agenda

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Other Reports

Executive Administrator & Financial

Old Business

1. 2024 Financial Plan for Ministries
2. Nominating Team Update
- 3.

New Business

1. Approve Annual Meeting Agenda 17

Other Business

- 1.

Information

1. Member Forums
 - a. Sunday, January 21
 - i. 9:15 am – Parish Hall
 - ii. 10:45 am – The Back Porch
 - iii. 3 pm – Online
 - b. Monday, January 22
 - i. 11 am – Palm Room
2. Next Council Meeting: Annual Council Retreat – February 24
 - a. Next Month’s Sunday CIC: Early: David Beck; Late: Nancy Wojnarski
3. Next Month’s Council Member for Devotions – (Open) _____

Adjourn

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

PALM VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES December 20, 2023, 6:30 pm, Conference Room

Present: Susan Ames, David Beck, Tom Dove, Linda Dufner, Jason Dufner, Chad Howell, Keith Outlaw, Andria Parker, Linda Reed, Sue Rue and Nancy Wojnarski

Ex-Officio

Member: Pastor Dave Koppel

Staff: Alan Dunn and Intern Pastor Steven Namburi

Excused: Stephen Loyd, Leah Murphy, and Tammy Oetken

Council President, Tom Dove, called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Pastor Koppel offered a prayer.

MOTION: David Beck moved to approve the agenda for the meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Nancy Wojnarski gave the devotion.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was reviewed and discussed. Tom Dove requested to pull the Preschool Report.

MOTION: Tom Dove moved to approve the Consent Agenda without the Preschool Report. Motion carried.

The Preschool Report was reviewed and discussed; the number of students was discussed; Tom Dove reminded the council that we would like to integrate Preschool more in the church.

MOTION: Sue Rue moved to accept the Preschool Report with questions. Motion carried.

Pastor Koppel updated the council on prayer concerns in the congregation.

OTHER REPORTS

Executive Administrator/Financial Report – Alan Dunn reviewed the attendance reports, attendance is trending upwards; the financial report was reviewed, we are \$10,295 lower than projected.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2024 Financial Plan for Ministry – Alan Dunn reviewed the 2024 Financial Plan, currently \$149,833 is needed to balance the budget; Alan recommended the following suggestions: that we request a 3-year grant from the Endowment Fund in the amount of \$188,000 to fund the Intern Pastor position; to designate the income earned on the ROW Sale funds and apply to 2024 budget; and to fund the facility maintenance expense from the Capital Maintenance Fund for one year.

MOTION: David Beck moved to request a 3-year grant of \$188,000 to fund the ELCA Intern Pastor Program at Palm Valley. Motion carried.

MOTION: Linda Dufner moved to designate the income from the ROW Sale funds to the budget. Motion carried.

MOTION: Sue Rue moved to fund Facility Maintenance expense from the Capital Maintenance Fund for one year for \$29,790. Motion carried.

MOTION: Chad Howell moved to request a \$50,000 grant from the Endowment Fund to fund the 2024 budget and COLA staff pay increases. Motion carried with opposition.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Senior Pastor Housing Allowance – Pastor Koppel requests to designate \$75,000 of his salary as housing allowance for 2024.

MOTION: Chad Howell moved to approve the Senior Pastor Housing Allowance for 2024 in the amount of \$75,000. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Chad Howell moved that we appoint the 2024 Endowment Committee tonight or at a called meeting.

The motion was discussed at length.

MOTION: Jason Dufner moved to table the discussion until the next council meeting. Motion carried with opposition.

INFORMATION

1. Alternative Income Team Update – Linda Reed updated the council on the recent committee meeting.
2. Member Forums – Tom Dove reminded the council of the upcoming member forums on Sunday, January 21st and Monday, January 22nd.
3. Next Month's Council Meeting – the January meeting scheduled for the 17th was rescheduled to Wednesday, January 10th.

MOTION: Linda Dufner moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned and closed with prayer.

Sue Rue, Council Secretary

PASTOR KOPPEL'S REPORT

Happy New Year!

As we celebrate another year of ministry at Palm Valley, our eyes look ahead to the coming year and all the opportunities that it will bring.

December brought all the expected delights:

- **Sunday School pageant,**
- **Stephen's Ministry Christmas Gathering,**
- **Palm Valley Preschool program,**
- **Christmas Eve services.**

Bishop Sue Briner came and preached, presided, and led a forum on the 17th.

We had a **wreath laying ceremony** in our cemetery for Wreaths Across America Day, and our own **Augustus Genzardi** represented our congregation and nation.

Plans were begun for the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, to be held at Palm Valley on February 21st. Our own band will play.

Our **shut-ins** were brought **Holy Communion** and those who are hospitalized were visited.

Several of us participated in the **installation of Pastor Amanda Ullrich in Hutto.**

Andrew Murphy and Cassidy Peterson were married on December 30th.

We prepared for the **Baptism of our Lord** service on January 7th.

Pastor Art Miller celebrated his 98th birthday.

Zofia Blacha (age 17) was baptized on January 7th as we celebrated the Baptism of our Lord.

Thank you for the privilege of serving God and His people at Palm Valley

Rev. Dr. Dave Koppel, Senior Pastor

Important Dates:

- **January 14, 2024 Pastor Brad Fuerst** of our UT campus ministry will preach
- **January 16, 2024 Day to serve at UT campus ministry.**
- **January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting / combined service and Youth Soup-to-go fundraiser**
- **February 14, 2024 Ash Wednesday / Valentine's Day – Drama series begins. Steven will preach at the noon service.**
- **February 21, 2024 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at PVLC**
- **March 24, 2024 Palm/Passion Sunday**
- **March 28 Maundy Thursday**
- **March 29 Good Friday**
- **March 31, 2024 Easter**
- **April 7, 2024 tentative Confirmation**
- **April 13-20 Adult Puerto Rico Mission Trip**
- **May 3-5 Synod Assembly in San Marcos (all in-person)**
- **May 6-9 ELCA larger church conference (Pastor Koppel out)**
- **May 19 Pentecost**
- **July 16-20, 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering**



Bishop Sue Briner at PVLC December 17, 2024



Staff Christmas Party.



Augustus Genzardi at Wreaths across America.



Andrew Murphy and Cassidy Peterson at their wedding.



14 young adults who were confirmed at Palm Valley gathered for the wedding.



Pastor Amanda Ulrich being installed as Pastor of Hutto Lutheran Church.



Pastor Art Miller on his 98th birthday on New Year's Day.

INTERN PASTOR

Dear respected Members of the Church Council,

First, I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. May God shower His abundant blessings upon each of us.

Continuing from my earlier update, I am pleased to share further insights into my activities and engagements in December.

Homebound Visits:

This month, I diligently continued our ministry's vital work of visiting our homebound members. It was a great honor to spend time with Leonard and Connie Aitkens, Emily Fehlis, Buddy and Sally Burk, Betty and Don Hester, Ina Woodbury, Jane Ramm, David Teinert, George and Joy Warriner, Robert Behrens, Carroll Pimpler, Pat and Herb Wolff, Wilma Peterson, Margaret Hitzfeld, Nancy Kind, Art and Meg Miller, Barbara Williams, and Roy Krienke. Each visit provided a wonderful opportunity to offer spiritual support and share in fellowship. I'm happy to report that all were in good spirits and appreciated our visits. Unfortunately, Lyla Pech was exposed to COVID-19, but I was relieved to learn through a phone call that she was doing okay.

Church Activities:

Participating in the Christmas Eve services was a remarkable experience that greatly boosted my confidence, especially in time management, reading, and expression. Carl singing at home was a new experience that allowed me to learn about the American Christian culture. My consistent involvement in our Bible study sessions twice a week has been enriching, deepening my understanding of the scriptures and enhancing my ability to engage with and interpret biblical teachings for our community. We had to postpone our intern support committee meeting due to the busy Christmas week.

Council and Financial Committee Meetings:

My role as an observer in the council and financial committee meetings has been enlightening, providing a broader perspective on the administrative aspects of our church. These meetings are instrumental in gaining insights into our church's operational intricacies and resource stewardship.

Seminary Activities and Book Reading:

This month, the Pastor assigned me to review "Conspiracy of Kindness," we had insightful discussions on its themes and practical applications, particularly about servant evangelism. This has been a significant learning experience. Amidst my church commitments, I have been actively involved in my seminary coursework, which includes writing an approval essay, working on "Rosters Minister's Profile." These academic responsibilities are crucial components of my continuous learning and significantly contribute to my ministerial preparation and theological understanding.

These diverse engagements – pastoral care, community involvement, administrative insights, and academic pursuits – shape my faith leadership journey. I am immensely grateful for the opportunities to grow and serve in these capacities and for the support and guidance of the church council, Pastor, and our congregation.

Thank you for your continued faith in my abilities and for entrusting me with these responsibilities. I look forward to further contributing to our church community in the coming months.

YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Wednesday Night Youth

Because of the holidays, we only had two Wednesday nights in December. The first week we looked at the meaning of Hope as it relates to the Christmas season. We read from both Isaiah and Luke. The second week was our Christmas party. Pajamas and a Movie: We had pancakes and hot chocolate. We watched Home Alone and did Christmas crafts. Because of school being out, we did not meet the last two weeks of December.



Youth Activities

There were many youth that served in all of the worship services on Christmas Eve. We had different musicians at 4:00, 7:00 and 9:00. We also had the kids perform a skit at the 5:30 Christmas Eve service.



Denise's Activities

The Round Rock Youth Workers met here at St. Richard's Episcopal Church this month. We celebrated Christmas with food and a gift exchange. I continue in the Stephen Ministry roll where I am able to support youth and families in times of struggle. I continue as the Synod's liaison for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in the Summer 2024 and support congregations through the registration process.



Mary Poppins, Jr. – Palace Theater Blair D. and Cecily B.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

January 2024 Children's Ministry Church Council Report

Children in Worship

In December, the Children presented their annual Christmas Pageant at the 9:30 Rejoice! Service and at the 11:00 Hispanic Service. Two different groups of children presented each.



JAM

Garlon Oatken surprised the JAM kids with a trailer ride during their Christmas Party. And JAM took a holiday break. We will start meeting again on January 10th.



Sunday School

Sunday school also took a holiday break. We started back January 7th

Bible Study for Women

The Thursday morning Bible study ended our New Testament Study using Tara Leigh Cobble's Bible Recap Podcast. And planned out a year of studies to start in 2024. We also plan to take a break whenever there is a Women's Forum and attend those this year.

The Thursday evening Bible study will start back sometime in January after we decide how we want to proceed.

IF: Table, Women's Monthly Gathering

The December gathering was held at Sonia Murray's home around her fire pit. We enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate. We did not meet in January. We will meet again February 4th and the Conference will be in Dallas on Feb. 23-24.

Future Plans

It's already time to start thinking of VBS. We will use Cokesbury's Camp Firelight, July 22-26
Service Project

For a service project, our kids helped decorate the church during the Deck the Halls Event. Young children decorated ornaments that we hung on a tree by the office.

ALTERNATE INCOME TEAM

Palm Valley Lutheran Church
Special Committee Report on Alternate Sources of Income

January 6, 2024

Committee Members: Tom Dove, Alan Dunn, Chad Howell, David Kautz, Pastor Koppel, Linda Reed (chair), Sue Rue, Mike Robinson

Summary:

The Special Committee on Alternate Sources of Income was formed to explore sources of income outside of traditional offerings. Like all religious institutions, PVLC faces long-term financial challenges resulting from cultural and generational shifts in attitudes about giving and congregational participation. There is a widening gap between anticipated income and operating expenses. This report presents our initial findings with ideas to diversify the church's income sources, helping to improve stability and sustainability while recognizing that offerings remain the most important source of income.

I. Introduction:

At PVLC, offerings and gifts from the congregation have historically been the foundation of our financial support. However, cultural and generational changes have brought about a decline in participation. The committee recognizes the need to explore additional income streams to help offset these changes.

II. The Continuing Importance of Offerings:

Historical Significance:

- Offerings have played a vital role in sustaining the church's operations, supporting ministries, and funding community outreach programs.

Ongoing Significance:

- Despite exploring alternate income sources, the committee recognizes that offerings continue to be the primary financial lifeline for PVLC. Other groups within PVLC are exploring stewardship education programs to enhance congregational understanding of the importance of offerings and their impact on the church's financial health.
- The spiritual and communal significance of offerings fosters a sense of belonging and shared responsibility among the congregation. The spiritual act of giving remains a fundamental aspect of congregational worship and commitment.

III. Findings:

Understanding the need for adaptability in the face of our evolving community and economic realities, the committee researched short, medium, and longer-term initiatives to complement traditional offerings. This is a list of ideas and suggestions generated by the committee that could be explored by the council:

Short-Term Initiatives (0-3 months):

Endowment Fund Request:

Request to access a portion of the endowment funds to supplement current and future years' budget needs.

Actions Taken:

01.03.24 – the following items were requested of the Endowment Committee:

Amount of Request: \$188,000 distributed over three years (2024 - \$58,600; 2025 - \$63,200; 2026 - \$66,200), to cover the church expenses for the ELCA Intern Pastor Program.

Amount of Request: \$50,000 to be distributed as follows: \$21,443.00 to close the remaining 2024 budget gap, with the remainder designated for a 3% staff increase.

01.03.24 – Requests Tabled by Endowment Committee.

Medium-Term Initiatives (3-12 months):

Develop Revenue Streams from Existing Resources:

- Identify and develop revenue-generating opportunities from the resources and activities the church is already involved in (e.g., preschool, Senior Access, cemetery, Fall Fair, Korean service).

Actions Taken:

Alan has had initial discussions with the Pre-school and Senior Access about new rental requirement to the church in the amount of \$1,000 a month.

Alan will provide the Council with an estimate of 2023 staff administrative hours spent on cemetery matters in order for the church to get reimbursement from the cemetery fund.

- Explore new possibilities, such as renting out facilities for craft fairs and festivals or senior daycare.
- Research tax implications of Unrelated Business Income and how to structure to preserve tax-exempt status.

Endowment from Proceeds of Right-of-Way Sale

- Structure a new endowment from the proceeds of the right-of-way land sale to the city, ensuring a perpetual income stream to support the church's mission and operations, with first-year earnings of \$40,000 going into budget for 2024 (upon maturity in July 2024).

Form a new team to encourage stewardship throughout the year with regular presentations to the council and congregation on strategic planning for the future.

Actions Taken:

The Generosity Team has been formed and has started its work.

Laurie has begun to teach the children about the importance of giving back to God.

Long-Term Initiatives (12+ months):

Commercial Development of Church Property:

- Explore developing church property along Highway 79 for commercial lease.
- Engage with real estate professionals to assess a development's feasibility and potential benefits.

Community Service Organization:

- Investigate establishing a subsidiary 501(c)(3) organization that could apply for community service-oriented grants.

III. Implementation:

To implement these initiatives, the committee recommends the following:

Establishment of Implementation Teams:

- Form dedicated teams for each initiative, with clear responsibilities and timelines for execution.

Congregational Communication:

- Communicate the initiatives to the congregation through various channels, emphasizing their role in securing the church's financial future.
- Provide regular updates on the progress of each initiative to maintain transparency and engagement.

IV. Conclusion:

The committee is hopeful that these initiatives can help the church adapt to the evolving landscape of our community and maintain the resources needed to fulfill our mission.

Additional Resources:

The Coming Revolution in Church Economics: Why Tithes and Offerings Are No Longer Enough by Mark DeYmaz and Harry Li

We Aren't Broke: Uncovering Hidden Resources for Mission and Ministry, by Mark Elsdon

2024 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

January 28, 2024, 10:30 am, Christian Life Center

AGENDA

The Congregation Council presents the following agenda and resolutions for the Annual Congregational Meeting:

- Prayer
- Adoption of Agenda
- Recognize Outgoing Council Members
- Nominating Team's Report
 - o Recognition of Nominating Team
 - o Election of Council Members
- Financial Reports
- Resolutions
 - o Assembly Delegates
 - o Memorials
 - o 2024 Financial Plan for Ministry
- Adjournment