

**ROSER MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
December 13, 2023**

In Attendance: Jim Bennington, Glenda Beck, Beth Bernet, Cherrie Birkman, David Cheshire, Doug & Dianne DeLong, Dan Divine, Barb & Dale Dohner, Kathleen Geist-Eskew, Nancian Hall, Jean Knopp, Cathy Meehan, Linda Moore, Peggy Nash, Sherry Oehler, Gretchen Petrasky, Donna Pope, Cass Robertson, Dirk Rodgers, John Skladany, Dick Walter, Sharon Wisniewski.

CALL TO ORDER: Cathy Meehan, Chair of the Congregation, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. The meeting was held remotely by Zoom.

Joys & Concerns were shared. Pastor Dirk opened the meeting with prayer.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES from 11/15/23

Corrections to the minutes:

- Correction that under the Music Report, the Christmas Cantata date was wrong – should be 12/17/2023.
- Under Old Business, Blue Ribbon event – should read volunteers needed for Friday and Saturday.

MOTION by Peggy Nash to accept the minutes from 11/15/23 as corrected.

2nd Glenda Beck

MOTION PASSED

REPORTS PRESENTED - In addition to the published November 2023 B/C Reports submitted.

Pastor – Rev. Dirk Rodgers

- Pastor Dirk will baptize a teenager in the Chapel next week.
- Two new ministries beginning in January: Mom’s Café (young mothers with young children) and Holy Yoga.
- New Sermon Series beginning in January will be on King David.

BREd – Glenda Beck

- Bethlehem Walk 12/3/23 was a success.
- Looking forward to Christmas eve activities.

Deacons – Sharon Wisniewski

- Holiday services are covered and they are ready to go.
- Next meeting is 12/18/23.

Finance – David Cheshire & Jim Bennington

- Housing allowance for Pastor Dirk tax purposes is reviewed annually. There is no change in his salary.

MOTION by David Cheshire to approve \$4,750 per month (\$57,000 per year) for housing allowance for 2024.

2nd Gary Hickerson

MOTION PASSED

- Christmas bonuses for staff and pastor.

MOTION by Jim Bennington to approve \$6,825 for Christmas bonuses for pastor and staff.

2nd Glenda Beck

MOTION PASSED

- Gary Reported income, worship contributions, and expenses were under budget for the month, but YTD income still exceeded budget and expenses were also under budget so deficit is less than anticipated. Worship contributions were less than 2022 but Special Contributions are down. Gary noted that people possibly may have donated to the stage project in lieu of the operating budget. Attendance is up, but per capita contributions are lower than previous years.
- Total assets have increased over 2022.
- Jim reported investments are up month over month. Thanks to Mike Meehan for his guidance.
- The French Legacy Fund was down \$20,000 in 2023 but has been up recently. We will not know the amount for 2024 until year end.
- Draft Budget was presented by David Cheshire
 - Budget process began in October and was discussed with Boards and Committees to determine needs for the coming year.
 - Significant expenses may occur next year due to major aged equipment repair or replacement and
 - Outreach and new program implementation expenses which are unknown at this time.
 - It is hoped to see more rental income from the outdoor stage.
 - There were significant savings in expenses for 2023, but income has been lagging. Roser lost some generous long-term members this past year who are no longer contributing.
 - Roser will likely be in the red at year end, but less than anticipated. This will be third year that Roser is in the red.
 - There are ways to decrease expenses, cut staff which is a major expense, cut programs or maintenance, but the goal is to support outreach and grow the church to increase the income so that more people are part of the church and more involved. The good position Roser is in is that we have reserves to cover losses from this year and next year.

• <u>Investments</u>	11/30/2023	YE 2022
Long-Term Sustaining:	\$440.7K	\$376.4K
Oper / Emer Reserves	<u>\$344.3K</u> (\$207.3K cash)	<u>\$326.7K</u>
Total Investments	\$785.0K	\$703.1K
• <u>Financials Report</u> – As of 11/30/2023 (compiled from detail reports):		
Executive Summary of YTD Operating Income and Expenses		
	11/30/2023	2022
Operating Income	\$498,336	\$483,431
Unrestricted Memorials	\$86,169	\$86,431
Total Income	\$584,505	\$569,729
Operating Expenses	\$610,272	\$582,363
Capital Improvements	\$6,583	\$21,713
Total Expenses	<u>\$616,855</u>	<u>\$634,076</u>
Net Operating Income	-\$32,350	-\$64,347
Designated	2023	2022
Income	\$178,109	\$105,718
Expenses	\$175,476	\$141,792
Net Designated Income	\$2,632	-\$36,074
Statement of Financial Position:		
Total Liabilities and Net Assets as of November 30, 2023:		
	2023	2022
	\$978,292.06	\$882,406.75

Guild – Cherrie Birkman

- See attached report.
- Circle meetings will be on the 1st Tuesday (not Monday).
- They signed over 100 Christmas cards to send to nursing home residents.
- As of November 30, 2023, the Thrift shop made \$91K and they hope to have made \$100K. They increased their budget by 10% and will be giving scholarships of \$2000 each. Cherrie thanked God for blessing all their efforts, and the volunteers for their tireless dedication. Cathy thanked the Guild on behalf of the church for all their work and contributions to the church and for being ambassadors for the church.

Library – Dianne DeLong

- Little library is being well used.
- They are adding new books to the library.

Membership – Sharon Skladany

- Membership has been reviewing membership files in order to update the roster at the end of the year. It has been difficult to know how many people come as attendance books are no longer used during services and they don't know how many people watch on line.

Music – Sherry Oehler

- Met Monday
- Sanctuary piano was tuned.
- Chapel piano will have major maintenance in March 2024.
- Getting Sanctuary ready for Cantata and they have been rehearsing.
- Caroling outreach this past Sunday - 22 people participated.
- There will be no choir rehearsals on 12/21 and 12/28/23.
- Cantata full dress rehearsal will be this Thursday, with the Cantata performed at both services this Sunday. 16 children who are part of Roser Youth Performing Arts (RYPA) will participate. Bred is helping to care for children while they are not on stage during the Cantata. Pam Ladd is providing refreshments for the musicians between the performances.
- Christmas Bell Choir will rehearse the next two Thursdays. They will perform at 6:30 pm Christmas Eve.
- Christmas Cantata is 12/16/23, with
- 2024 Concert Series - 1/30/24, 5 pm (Tuesday) – Wyndbreakers, 3/1/24, 7 pm (Friday evening) - Holy Land Trip Choir. They are considering a third concert on the outdoor stage.
- Musician appreciation Sunday will be 2/18/24.
- Updating the Music page on the Roser web site.
- Next meeting 1/8/24.

Nominating –Barb Dohner

- The 2024 elected officer slate is mostly complete. Barb thanked everyone who has volunteered.
- Still looking for Vice Chair of the congregation.

Stephen Ministry - Cathy Meehan for Lorna Smilde-Powers

- Stephen Ministry is in a quiet period currently with only one active care receiver. There is some contact with former care receivers on an informal basis.
- Some Stephen Ministers are using their skills outside of formal sessions by helping neighbors. One couple is now attending Roser Church.
- One of the Stephen Ministers regularly visits nursing homes and is part of the chaplain service at Blake Hospital.
- Another member has also signed up to be part of the chaplain service at Blake Hospital.
- Stephen ministers are looking for further opportunities to use their skills outside of formal Stephen Ministry sessions.
- A continuing education session on the Five Stages of Grief is scheduled for next month and a CPR training session is being planned.
- A presentation by the Alzheimer's Association on helping caregivers is planned for 3/6/24 in conjunction with the JOY group.

Stewardship – Cathy Meehan

- Cathy thanked Randy Zion who spoke to the congregation during both services this past Sunday to appeal for continued support of the Roser operating budget in lieu of the looming deficit.

OLD BUSINESS

- Outdoor stage – Pastor Dirk reported construction is moving along and they hope to complete the stage by Christmas Eve.
- Inside stage – Pastor Dirk reported the Second bid was very high. Are working to have a concrete cost number to bring to Council to determine if the project should move forward to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
 - Purpose for renovation: safety is primary concern – there have been several falls; also increased utility and beauty. The change will be very beneficial to the church.
 - If approved, the plan is to ask the congregation for a three year commitment/pledge to allow contributors time to pay. Roser can borrow the money from our reserves to cover the costs if necessary, and pay back reserves as the money is received.
- Blue Ribbon Event - Glenda Beck reported it was a learning experience. They already have more crafters signed up for the next event, the Food Bank received \$632. They suggested Roser sell beverages and baked goods. There was little foot traffic as other events were occurring in the area. Cherrie Birkman noted that the Guild would like to have the Thrift Shop open Friday, as well as Saturday for the next events. The next two events are February 9th & 10th and March 8th & 9th.
- Annual Reports from Boards and Committees are due January 7, 2024 in Word format.

NEW BUSINESS – None

Cathy wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of Roser Council is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2024 online at 7:00 PM.

Adjourn / Prayer: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM. Pastor Dirk closed the meeting with prayer.

Minutes submitted by Cass Robertson, Clerk of Council