

**ROSER MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
April 24, 2024**

In Attendance: Glenda Beck, Jim Bennington, Beth Bernet, David Cheshire, Doug & Dianne DeLong, Dan Divine, Andy DiVries, Kathleen Geist-Eskew, Dick Gilmore, Gary Hickerson, Mary Horton, Jean Knopp, Cathy Meehan, Peggy Nash, Lorna Smilde-Powers, Cass Robertson, Dirk Rodgers, Darrel & Sue Shinn, John & Sharon Skladany, Gail Swain, Dick Walter, Alan Ward, Sharon Wisniewski, Randy Zion.

CALL TO ORDER: Sharon Wisniewski, 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 Rodgers opened the meeting with prayer.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES from 03/27/24

There were no corrections to the minutes. There was a question on the financial report which David Cheshire stated he will follow up on at a later date. Minutes were accepted as published pending corrections from the BOF.

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

Pastor – Rev. Dirk Rodgers – See report in Joint Summary File as sent to Council

- Nikkiah is inputting data from the information cards submitted this past Sunday.
- Change in worship order: Pastor Dirk, along with the Deacons, asked different people to help open the service with announcements so that more people involved in Roser ministries will be seen by the congregation.

Deacons - Lorna Powers

- Board of Deacons met and discussed matters related to Easter activities.
- Beginning this Sunday, there will be a short Meet & Greet in the Narthex after both services. Council members were encouraged to wear name tags and stay a few minutes to talk with other church members.

BREd - Glenda Beck

- Getting ready for Vacation Bible School which will be the first week in June. JOY will help make decorations at their next meeting and later in the month, another BREd session will be held to get ready for VBS.
- Sunday School attendance has grown with rehearsals for the RYPA presentation in May.
- There are campership scholarships available to any child associated with the church to go to a Christian based camp this summer.

Trustees – Alan Ward

- May 3rd, work on the Chapel floor will begin. It should take about 7-8 days. The 20 pews and other furniture will be stored in Fellowship Hall. It may interfere with group activities held in there. Special precautions are needed when the organ is moved. The project involves removing the carpet, repairing the floor and replacing floor boards as needed, sanding, and refinishing.
- Still working on bids to level and correct the drainage in the south parking lot.

Food Pantry – Sharon Wisniewski

- For February, they distributed 98 bags of groceries, which is an increase and \$3800 was spent on SRFP Publix cards. In March, 39 bags plus \$3800 on SRFP Publix cards was distributed.

Guild – Peggy Nash – See report as sent Council

- Peggy Nash reported the Thrift Shop is doing well. They need more help, especially in the summer and they need people who are willing to work outdoors in the Annex.
- Church Women United will meet Saturday at the Catholic church.

Library – Dianne DeLong

- The Little Free Library is doing well. However, the books never come back so more donations are needed.
- Alan thanked Dianne for all the work they are doing on the old Roser photo organization.

Membership – Kathleen Geist-Eskew

- Held a brain-storming session on recruiting new members. The team reviewed what other churches are doing and report that Roser is already doing many of things on the list, such as child care, Bible study, good parking, and other things.

Missions – Gail Swain

- They are focusing on working with Roser associated organizations to support kids for summer camp.
- Gail gave praise to God for the Giving Challenge – our missions did very well for Roser missions. Youth for Christ received \$217,840; Agape Flights received \$159,955, Loving Hands \$101,000; Solve Maternity \$91,000; Bring on the Ministry \$27,000. The Roser Food Bank is also on the list. Gail recommended to check the leaderboard at the Giving Challenge web site to see all the missions Roser supports who received funds this year.

Stephen Ministers – Lorna Powers

- They will meet next week.
- Continuing to provide care for Care Receivers.
- Two of Roser Stephen Ministers are Chaplains at Blake Hospital: Ed Saxe and George Yanizeski. Contact them or the office and they will be glad to see patients at Blake. are planning to schedule SM is planning an educational meeting for the public on maintaining mobility.

Stewardship – Andy DiVries

- Very active month. They prepared a report on congregational giving for the choir loft remodel. Giving has been coming in steadily and is going well.
- They are planning a fund-raising meeting for the congregation but will wait until after the congregational Q&A session on the remodel plans.

OLD BUSINESS

Sanctuary stage remodel

- Jim Bennington reviewed the content of the discussion to be held this Sunday for the congregation.
 - An image of the proposed new stage displayed was displayed and discussed.
 - Broad support will be needed to make the project successful. They will need feedback from members and attendees. Jim asked Council members if they would support the project.
 - Jim reviewed the history of the project planning process and bids from contractors.
 - They are hoping to begin the project in June of 2025 with completion in September of 2025.
 - All growing churches are in a place of dynamic change.
 - Cost is estimated to be around \$250,000 (includes \$51,000 contingency). Fundraising will be done by a three-year commitment plan.
- Randy Zion expressed concerns which were sent to Council.
 - Randy submitted a proposal for an alternative plan which would be much less money (as sent to Council).
 - Randy contended that our facility is not what causes our church to grow. It is people who draw others to the church. Music and the choir are a large part of Roser worship.
 - The total space of the Sanctuary will be reduced as there will be a wall where the choir loft currently is. The space behind the wall will be for storage.
 - Pew space will be lost so occupancy will be less.
 - The choir will now be at a lower level which will change the site lines of the congregation.
- Sharon noted that the choir was represented on the Major Projects Team that developed the current proposal. Representation was broad-based. Randy noted that the representation did not reflect the engineering expertise required to analyze the building. Jim noted that the Team was considering the future use and flexibility that the stage might have. Jim also noted that there was engineering experience represented on the Team.
- Glenda commented that a view of the organist is not always available in other churches. Additionally, Glenda feels that the steps are dangerous. Choir members have left due to the steps.
- Gary Hickerson commented that removing pews would decrease seating during popular times and events and as the church grows and more people attend. Also, limited sight lines adds a burden. Gary would like to see all the options reviewed carefully.
- Gail Swain commented she appreciated the broad based representation, but that perhaps more reps from the music committee and more feedback from choir members who use the space might help to have a fuller understanding.
- Kathleen suggested having more than one choice offered. Sharon reported that she reached out to survey responders who did not support the project for their comments.
- Cathy suggested that Council members tour the choir loft, stage and storage areas to have better understanding of the issues. She also explained the safety issues with the loft. Also, looking at the empty chairs in the loft is not a good look. She also discussed the tight space and all the wires that cross the floor. It is difficult for the bell choir to play their instruments due to lack of space and sight lines to other performers. It is very crowded when the handbell choir is playing as this is and very active performance with the bells swinging.

- Alan Ward sent a late email just before the meeting which has not been received or distributed to Council yet. Alan will send his email to Council. He summarized that he thinks more discussion is suggested.
- Sharon stated that there is more than one way to do a project. Roser is four years into the project. More discussion is needed, along with a Q&A session for the congregation. Sharon thanked everyone for their input. She reviewed the results of the survey:
 - 76 surveys were completed. 70 people responded that they support the project. 6 people said they did not support the project and one of those was not a member.
 - 51 of the 76 survey responders said they would support the project financially. 15 said they were not sure if they would support the project financially and 16 were undecided.
- What is the next step? Jim reported he will be giving a presentation on Sunday followed by a Q&A session after each service in order to inform the congregation and get their feedback.
- Dick Walter commented that we have a duty to determine how to most effectively spend our funds to get to where we want to go. He recommended that the options be reviewed by those with experience and knowledge to judge them and report the results to Council.
- Sharon asked that we follow a timeline to gather more information to consider other options. Randy was asked to submit his proposal with drawings and estimated costs within the next 30 days.

Board of Finance Report: Gary Hickerson

- Gary reported March was a good month. The bottom line was over budget for March and YTD.
- In March Roser received an anonymous donation of stock worth \$6172.20.
- Financial Report – As of 3/31/2024 (compiled from detail reports):

	3/31/2024	YE 2023
Operating	2024 YTD	2023 YTD
Total Operating Income	\$202,861	\$172,306
Operating Expenses	\$187,748	\$189,684
Capital Improvements	\$ 0	\$2,400
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$187,748	\$192,084
NET operating income	<u>\$15,224</u>	<u>-\$19,778</u>
Designated		
Income	\$69,826	\$61,133
Expenses	\$46,150	\$60,787
Net Designated Income	<u>\$23,676</u>	<u>\$345</u>
<u>Total Liabilities & Net Assets</u>	<u>\$1,29,276.17</u>	<u>\$967,996.25</u>
Long-Term Sustaining:	\$494.2K	\$455.1K
Oper / Emer Reserves	<u>\$378.2K</u> (\$154.4K cash)	<u>\$361.0K</u>

Adjourn / Prayer: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM. Sharon closed the meeting with prayer: Ecclesiastes 4:12 – “three threads are stronger together”. We are here to encourage and build each other up. Ephesians 4:2-3 – “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting of Roser Church Council is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2024 online at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cass Robertson, Clerk of Council

ADDENDUM: After the meeting, a correction to the February Minutes Board of Finance report was received from David Cheshire, Assistant Treasurer. The correct reading is:

“Here is what I recommend for the corrected February (and future) Council Minutes.

Changes in blue text. A little simpler and cleaner.”

Financials Report (from detailed reports):

	<u>2024 YTD</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>	
Total Operating Income	\$119,003	\$109,868	
Operating Expenses	\$129,915	\$124,909	
Capital Improvements	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Total Expenses	<u>\$129,905</u>	<u>\$124,909</u>	
NET	-\$10,912	-\$15,040	Negatives in red.
Designated Income	\$48,167	\$68,426	
Expenses	<u>\$27,529</u>	<u>\$45,527</u>	
NET	\$20,638	\$45,527	
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,077,052	\$965,886	
		YE 2023	
Oper / Emerg Reserves	\$364.7K	\$361.0K	
Long Term Sustaining	\$461.2K	\$455.2K	