

Church Council Meeting Notes

October 10, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Members (Present = Highlighted)

Brent Teiken, President
 Galen Clow, Vice President
 Tom Staiger, Past President
 Mackenzie Tadych, Secretary
 Karl-Heinz Mertins, Treasurer

Erin Labrensz, Family Life
 Sarah Hanson, Family Life
 Zac Staples, Outreach
 Larry Erdmann, Administration

Dan Altenbernd, Spiritual Growth
 Pastor Mary Suomala Folkerds
 Pastor Taylor Wilson
 Pastor Meggie Bjertness

- ❖ [PACE Presentation](#)
- ❖ Meeting was **Called to Order at 7:51 pm by Brent Teiken**
- ❖ **Consent Agenda** - Motion to approve by Galen, Second by KH, passed.
 - **October Agenda**
 - **Last Months Meeting Minutes**
 - [Staff Report](#)
- ❖ [Treasurer Report](#) and **Approval** - Motion to approve pending the update on the “Laugh, Pray, Serve” account by Mackenzie, second by Tom, Passed.
 - YTD is 1.6% higher compared to prior YTD but 2.3% below budget. Monthly giving is 9.5% below the September budget.
 - Inflation rates are impacting expenses
 - Need to increase the topline of giving - cutting and saving is not viable
 - Error: “Laugh, Pray, Serve” account has been depleted to \$0 to help other accounts.
- ❖ **Items for Discussion**
 - Recruitment for 4 council positions in the New Year - Mary and Tom will be collaborating on ideas and expertise of church members
 - Date for Coffee-with-the-Council
 - Sunday October 29th between services (Tom, Brent, Galen)
 - Date for Yearly Meeting with former Council Members
 - Sunday November 5th between services
 - Dennis Nelson has been hired as the new part-time Finance Administrator for the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. He is granted authorization to be a signer for the following accounts:
 - Gate City Bank Checking and Savings Accounts
 - Trust Fund Accounts at Bell Bank, Vanguard, and the ELCA Foundation
 - Columbarium Account at Gate City Bank (he is already a signer, but card at Gate City will be updated in October)
 - Karen Skarpness will conclude her role as Data Systems & Finance Manager on October 31, 2023, and will work with Dennis Nelson to update signer information during October.
 - The new signers for the Gate City Bank Checking Account will be Dennis Nelson, Brent Teiken, Mackenzie Tadych, and Karl-Heinz Mertins/Erin Labrensz.

- The new signers for the Gate City Bank Savings Account will be Dennis Nelson, Galen Clow, Mackenzie Tadych, and Karl-Heinz Mertins/Erin Labrensz

❖ **Motions**

- Finance administrator Dennis Nelson starting November 1st
 - Motion to approve Dennis Nelson starting in the finance administrator role on November 1st by Tom, second by Larry, Passed.
- Continue with Silver + benefit plan for full time staff members
 - Not a change. Open enrollment deadline is October 13th
 - Motion to stay on the silver + benefit plan for 2024 made by Galen, second by Erin, Passed.
- Executive council met prior to the council meeting and approved the last 2 months of severance for Karen Skarpness.
 - Motion by Tom Staiger, second by Galen, passed.

❖ **Summary of Meeting/Next Steps (“Gather, Grow, and Go”)**

- Next Council Meeting November 14th - Devotions by

❖ **Adjourn - Meeting adjourned with Lord’s Prayer at**