

Our Savior's Congregational Council Meeting Minutes Summary

****Date:**** March 18, 2025

****Time:**** 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

****Mission:**** Created for Relationship with God, all people everywhere, and creation itself;
Called to equip people to Serve by growing disciples of Jesus Christ

Attendance

- ****Present In-Person:**** Kerry, Lauri, Sarah Ward, Marianne, Pastor Susie, Deb, Bennett Putnam, Pr Leland
- ****Present Virtually:**** Eric Peterson
- ****Absent:**** Dwight
- ****Congregational Members Present:**** Ellie
- ****Devotions:**** Marianne

Key Decisions and Actions

1. ****Meeting Schedule Confirmation:****

- Current meeting time (3rd Tuesday at 6:30 PM) works for all; will continue.

2. ****New Members and Google Docs Access:****

- **Action:** Pastor Susie updated Google Docs access for new members and removed old members during the meeting. Members to report if access issues persist.

3. ****Communication:****

- **Action:** Kerry to create a new group text for council and executive team.

4. ****Call to Order:****

- Lauri called the meeting to order; Deb seconded. Unanimously approved.

5. ****Election of Officers:****

- ****President:**** Deb Morris nominated (Bennett), accepted, passed unanimously.
- ****Vice President:**** Lauri nominated and elected via ballot (beat Bennett's self-nomination).
- ****Secretary:**** Bennett nominated (Lauri), passed unanimously.

6. ****Robert's Rules - Consent Agenda:****

- Group agreed to adopt a consent agenda for routine items.
- **Action:** Bennett to create dated folders for council meeting reports, due by Wednesday before meetings.

7. ****March Agenda and February Minutes Approval:****

- March agenda approved unanimously after additions (motions by Kerry and Bennett).

- February minutes approved unanimously with Marianne's addition of feedback on the Eleanor Squad presentation (motions by Marianne and Kelly).

8. **Synod Toolkit Discussion:**

- Kerry and Pastor Susie attended in Apple Valley. Upcoming event: Worship in an Inviting Church, March 22, Trinity, Stillwater.

9. **Pr Leland's First Service (March 23):**

- Two services planned.

- Action: Sarah to draft email verbiage for Pr Leland's first service and April 10 announcement, to be sent by Sierra this Thursday.

10. **Bulletin Board Renewal:**

- Pastor Susie presented a proposal and material samples. Tabled for further discussion on church aesthetics and flow.

- Action: Sub-team (Kelly, Deb) to focus on this for 4 weeks, preparing for Easter and next meeting. Involve Donna Juran and staff later.

11. **Ministry Team Updates:**

- Shanna and Jeff's roles covered.

- Eleanor Squad event: Suggest Lutheran Advocacy instead; Kerry to follow up.

12. **Focus Groups:**

- **Know Your Congregation:** Jeff, Marianne, Lauri.

- Action: KYC to consult Jeff and find an Excel expert (Alison Iwan).

- **Financial Focus Group/Stewardship:** Kerry, Paul E., Dave B. planning "Celebrating the Path Ahead" event (April 10).

- Action: Marianne to place "I give electronically" cards in pews and announce in Pulse.

Kerry to send time & talent pledge responses to staff and ministry teams.

- **Noah's Ark/OSLC:** Kerry, Shanna, Bennett.

- Action: Limit VBS scholarships; Kerry to discuss with Char on registration and funding options (e.g., half-price tuition).

13. **Marketing Team (Deb, Kelly, Eric):**

- Action: Take on digital advertising strategy post-budget cuts, including curb appeal and website redo. Investigate public FB page search issues.

- Action: Bennett to create a moderated Instagram for confirmation group (Nick to vet). Vote next meeting.

- Action: Bennett and Pr Leland to discuss church apparel store for next meeting's agenda.

14. **Facility Team Report (Dwight):**

- Sewer backup damage minimal; awaiting cost estimates. Air handling unit replacement scheduled. Work session planned for April 12.

- Old chancel furniture: Mark and Ron Prazak to create a design for historical display (funded by Sharon and Dennis Frick, \$500). Motion by Marianne, seconded by Sarah, passed unanimously.

15. **Financials (Kerry):**

- YTD Income: \$88.6k; Expenses: \$97.1k; Deficit: -\$8.1k. Cash + receivables: \$273.9k; Dedicated funds: \$191.4k.

- Motion to approve financials by Sarah, seconded by Bennett, passed unanimously.

- Actions:

- Kerry to add endowment as a side note, not on balance sheet.

- Kerry to meet with Endowment Committee on loan investment options (fixed or adjustable rates).

- Pr Leland's \$30,000 housing allowance approved unanimously (motion by Marianne, seconded by Deb).

- Moving expenses for Pr Leland: \$15k vs. \$9k approved. Motion for \$3k additional by Kerry, seconded by Kelly, passed with two abstentions. Kerry to review funds & email to the rest of the group.

- 2025 financial review: Pr Leland to email committee (Mark Groff, Pat Mann, Dan Skrypak).

- Kerry to create a document tracking committee terms and integrate into Breeze.

16. **Personnel Committee (Kerry):**

- Dir of Traditional Music hire in progress. Job descriptions nearly done for next meeting. Employee manual ongoing.

- Nursery applicant interview on March 31; Susie to seek exec team approval.

- Action: Pr Leland and council to set 1-3-6 month goals using MSP. Kelly to coordinate small groups with call committee for Pr Leland to meet members.

17. **Congregational Feedback:**

- Action: Pr Leland and Deb to plan a council/pastors/staff retreat.

Pastor Reports

- **Pr Leland:** Out of town April 3-5, 24-26, May 5-19. Installation on May 4 with Synod present.

- **Pastor Susie:** Thanked Dan Foreman, Eric Peterson, Dwight, Cornerstone, Doreen, Peter, Ellie, and others for various contributions.

Next Meeting

- **Date:** April 15, 2025, 6:30-8:30 PM

- **Agenda Items:** Installation intros, facility usage update (Lauri), hot topics research, church apparel store.

- ****Adjourned:**** Motion by Lauri, seconded by Marianne, passed unanimously. Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Devotions Signup

- April - December: Open for volunteers.

Parking Lot (Future Topics)

- MET team opportunities, wedding pamphlet update, Noah's Ark contract, benevolence definition, ERC filing, OSLC emails, \$10k maintenance allocation, politics in church, family on committees, youth video, lay leader roles.