

Board Name: Church Council	<b>Board Members Present:</b> Nate Anderson, Jon Bjoin, Jer Carpenter, Carrie Cheseboro, Tom Dorscheid, Tammy Eckley, Barb Evert, Alexis Frank, <del>Kathy Meier</del> , Pr. Michael Mueller, Elisa Ried, Kurt Saterbak, Arwen Twitchett, Jarod Wasson, Christina Zink
Meeting in Room 301	
Meeting date:2/17/2026 (Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm)	

### Church Council Meeting

- Pr. Michael said the opening prayer and President Evert called the meeting to order.

### Agenda Adoption

- **CC2.17MMS01** Adopt Agenda with the addition of 4 items to new business (1. West portico decision. 2. Foundation Board rep needed. 3. First Senior Housing rep needed. 4. Founder's Table Network Grant).  
**NA/JC All approve.**

### Approval of Minutes CC

- **CC2.17MMS02** Approve Minutes **JC/JW All approve.**

### Consent Agenda/Team Reports

- **CC2.17MMS03** Approve Minutes **TE/DS All approve.**

### Financial Report (Jarod Wasson)

- Balance Sheet
  - Combining both the regular and matching donations, we were below budget for contributions by -\$26,448.5. Total income was also lower than budget by -\$24,907.99 compared to budget. Expenses in January were higher due to first quarter insurance, higher utility bills and snow removal. The net income for January was -\$17,422.
  - YTD contributions (including matching, regular, loose and special envelopes) is below budget by -\$84,313 and is now lower than last fiscal year by -\$1,368. Total income for July through January is below budget by -\$68,435. Income is above what was brought in for the 24-25 fiscal year by \$32,421.37 (due to Foundation grants and the Visitation pastor donation).
- Profit and Loss/Operating
  - Personnel is under as there have been less support staff hours for worship services and youth and family staff.
  - Administration is below budget with less spent on office supplies and office equipment.
  - Buildings and grounds is currently under budget, however snow removal and gas costs will continue to be higher, bringing these totals closer to budget.
  - Communication is under budget with less spent on advertising.
  - Church Programs is under budget as less has been spent on communion and devotional supplies, the fair food booth expenses were below budget, and first fest costs were lower.
- Memorial and Gifts
  - Personnel – Coaching sessions with Jim Singleton
  - Building and Grounds – Plumbing work for water main installation and exterior cleaning.
  - Communications – A/V storage cart and supplies
  - Church Programs – Winter chill and Mission trip initial expenses, and handbell repair
  - Community Connections – First Events String event, help for needy families and treat street
  - Misc – FLCW expenses

- **CC2.17MMS04** Accept Financial Report **NA/KS All accept.**

### **Ministry Report/Update Items- Pr. Michael**

- Implementation of new organizational model
  - Teams are meeting
  - All teams still are looking for additional members
- Develop a coordinated financial strategy
  - Developing policies
  - Reviewed Foundation grants
- Discipleship Development
  - Apprenticeship - Small discipleship group of young adults is meeting on Monday evenings
  - Multiplication - members are taking turns preaching - doing a great job
  - Discipleship Retreat - 2/21/26
  - Mentors - invited for discipleship retreat and starting a new program - Practicing the Way
- Great feedback from Mardi Gras celebration
- Lent is planned for
- Pastor Michael is participating in an online course - Socially Engage Mysticism
- Pastor Michael participated in a retreat at Holy Wisdom
- Masterpiece and the Red and White Dance are doing well
- Upcoming Leaders Gathering - February 28th
- 1 death

### **Synod and Church wide Updates**

- Synod Assembly will be May 15-16 in Janesville

### **Unfinished Business**

- Organizational Structure Updates
  - Agenda/Minutes
    - Action Item - Arwen will email the teams the new agenda/minutes template
    - Team Covenant plan and language - to add to the All Teams Meeting
- Wednesday Lenten Suppers
  - Reminder: February 22 after 2 nd service prepare BBQ for Wednesday
  - Reminder: February 25 serve Lenten Supper w/ Integration Team
  - All Wednesdays are filled as Relationship Building and Community Connections are on 3/25
- Synod Assembly May 15 and 16, 2026
  - Discuss possible names of voting members that could attend (up to 6)
  - Approve attendees at Church Council March meeting - currently interested are: Barb Evert, Jon Bjoin, Lexi Frank and Jarrod Wasson are interested
  - Action Item - Bring more names for the synod to vote in March.
  - Action Item - Pastor Michael to reach out and inquire about volunteers needed at Synod and if the young adults could assist.

### **New Business**

- Foundation Board Grants/present and prioritize
  - Council gave a list of recommendations to share with the Foundation Board
  - Action Item - Council should be looking into Thrivent Action Grants
  - Action Item - Kurt will reach out to a Thrivent member to ask them to share at offering time.
- West portico update and decision

- o Reports on the West Portico and that it is in imminent danger of collapsing. Caution tape is being used to prevent access.
- o **CC2.17MMS05** Motion for council to direct Buildings and Grounds to remove the West Portico for safety and to explore opportunities for future redevelopment. **JC/TE All Approve.**
- Foundation Board rep
  - o Nate will attend 3/19
  - o Tabled decision until March council meeting
- Senior Housing Board rep
  - o Tabled decision until March council meeting
- Founder's Table Network Grant
  - o Pastor Michael shared information about his grant and his starting plans for the Founder's Table Network.
  - o Council encouraged him to move forward as it sounds like a great opportunity for outreach.

### **For the Good of the Church**

- Red and White dance
- Kick-off for the 40 day Lent Devotional for Sunday School participants
- Jarod for preaching
- VBS team is already started and ahead of where they were last year
- 5 new council members

### **Highlights to Share:**

- Council prioritized Foundation grants to present to the Foundation Board.
- The council is looking for interested members to attend the Synod Assembly on 5/15 and 5/16 in Janesville
- The council directed the removal of the West Portico for safety.

### **Time for Reflection and Closing Prayer**

- Closing prayer

### **Action Items**

- Arwen will email the teams the new agenda/minutes template
- Bring more names for the synod to vote in March.
- Pastor Michael to reach out and inquire about volunteers needed at Synod and if the young adults could assist.
- Council should be looking into Thrivent Action Grants
- Kurt will reach out to a Thrivent member to ask them to share at offering time.

### **Adjourn Meeting**

- **CC2.17MMS06** Adjourn Meeting JC/TD All Approve.

Next meeting: March 17, 2026, 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted, Elisa Ried, Secretary