

1 ***CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES***

2 ***Crown of Life Lutheran Church***

3 ***February 15, 2011***

4  
5 Vice President Bill Stark called the monthly Council meeting to order. Vicar Gary opened the  
6 meeting with a devotion and prayer. The devotion was based on John 5:16-29 concerning Jesus  
7 being about His Father's business. Just as we should today be about our Father's business in our  
8 church and outside our church. Those present at this meeting were Pastor Phill, Vicar Gary,  
9 Daryl Irmer, Bill Stark, Dan Mehner, Lowell Koelling, Ron Pearson, Rev. Jerry Scansen, Bob  
10 Gehrke, Jerry McCall, Bob Mansfield and Howard Ludden.

11 Guests: None

12  
13 **A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2011 Council**  
14 **meeting. Motion carried.**

15  
16  
17 **TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Dan Mehner reported)

- 18
- 19 • Copy of the Comparative Financial Statement as of December 31, 2010 is attached. Dan  
20 went over the final financial statement for 2010. We budgeted \$700,000 and took in  
21 \$779,079. Our actual expenses were \$656,407, which left us an overage of \$122,672.  
22 COL's Operating Funds were \$80,739 and Dedicated Funds were \$382,127, which is all  
23 in cash. They are thinking about putting \$100,000 of that into a savings account to make  
24 a little bit more interest on it. The Endowment Fund is \$56,716. This is a note to which  
25 we cannot add money, but we can take it all out without penalty. The actual Endowment  
26 Fund figure is \$71,708.14. The difference is in Dedicated Funds. The Endowment Fund  
27 Interest Account is \$14,178, which is available and can be spent. He then went over the  
28 rest of the items on the Financial Statement.
  - 29 • There was a question about when the long term debt would be paid up. This is estimated  
30 to be in another two years. No actual date has been determined as yet.
  - 31 • Then Dan stated that the result of the voters assembly voting to put 60% into Reserve for  
32 Replacement, 20% for Missions, 10% for Endowment Fund, and 10% for Video  
33 Enhancement that these accounts now have the following balances, which includes  
34 amounts carried forward from year 2010 – Reserve for Replacement, \$134,621.47;  
35 Missions, \$24,594.28; Endowment Fund, \$14,992.14; and Video Enhancement  
36 \$12,267.14.
  - 37 • Copy of the Comparative Financial Statement as of January 31, 2011 is also attached. He  
38 cautioned that the large difference between the Budget Receipts of \$68,537.00 and the

39 Actual Receipts of \$86,091.00 is because several people contribute for the full year in  
40 January. Budgeted Expenses are \$64,167.00 and Actual Expense was \$69,576.00.

41

42

43 **FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:** (Lowell Koelling reported)

44

- 45 • Lowell stated that in the March issue of Jewels is an article reminding members that  
46 Congress has extended through the year 2011 the Federal Tax provision, which allows  
47 individuals age 70½ and older to exclude from income up to \$100,000.00 of direct  
48 distribution from traditional IRAs to a charitable institution to be nontaxable, if all the  
49 conditions are met and meet all the qualifications. The distribution must be made directly  
50 from the IRA trustee to the involved institution. Questions were brought up about what  
51 are some of the nuances of this type of giving.

52

53

54 **BOARD OF ELDERS:** (Ron Pearson)

55

- 56 • Elders will be delivering any of the contribution envelopes that have not picked up.
- 57 • During the Elders monthly meeting they had discussion about children who come to the  
58 communion rail. There has some confusion on who gets communion. Pastor is going to  
59 try to word something into what we have in the bulletin. As yet that has not been done,  
60 so the Elders are going to ask if you take communion at your home congregation or  
61 something to that effect. That way the Elders should eliminate the confusion in the  
62 future.
- 63 • The Elders were advised if they do drop a wafer just to pick it up and consume it. This  
64 happens from time to time.
- 65 • They also discussed the pros and cons of eulogies at funeral services. Essentially, the  
66 Pastor has done a good job of controlling that. We do not want to open it up to whole the  
67 congregation, but he knows ahead of time that someone would like to speak.
- 68 • As a side note, we from time to time encourage people to go to our website, but we do  
69 not publish our website in the bulletin. Ron will pursue this with Pastor or Sue to see if  
70 this could be done in the future.
- 71 • Ron also asked for a reaction of not having a hymn sing during distribution of  
72 communion. The majority had a positive reaction. Some stated they missed singing  
73 hymns, and also mentioned that they would like to have the hymns sung be familiar  
74 hymns.

75

76

77 **BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP:** (Rev. Jerry Scansen)

78

- 79
- 80 • He stated that stewardship cannot succeed without “biblical stewardship”. He is  
81 concerned right now, as he has not been able to devote the time needed to accomplish  
82 this, because of his affiliation with Benevilla. He will now be working them as a full-  
83 time employee. The person who takes this responsibility needs to be someone who  
84 knows what “biblical stewardship” means and has the time to devote his self to it. The  
85 money aspect of stewardship is over-emphasized.
  - 86 • Rev. Jerry stated that he has made up bulletin inserts for the remainder of the year and  
87 has given those to Sue.
  - 88 • Daryl stated that he would like to be included in any meeting that Rev. Jerry sets up with  
89 Pastor Phill have in regard to this area of ministry.

89

90

91 **BOARD FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ASSIMILATION:** (Bob Gehrke)

92

- 93 • Joel Lampe, Director of the Bible Museum located in Goodyear, will be here on  
94 Wednesday, February 23rd and Thursday, February 24th about 4:00 PM. This will be an  
95 interactive seminar and is the reason for the two days, so people will be able to have time  
96 to handle and see the bibles and other materials that Joel will be bring with him. Bob  
97 Mansfield asked what the needs are for setting up for this and where. Hopefully, this  
98 information will be provided before the seminar.

99

100 **BOARD OF MISSIONS:** (Jerry McCall)

101

- 102 • Jerry reported that the Board of Missions has their regular meeting last Thursday. As you  
103 could see by the financial report they had \$24,600.00 in unallocated budget money. The  
104 following is the allocation of those monies. One time contributions from that budget  
105 money will be given to Kuwaa, a LCMS mission in Eastern Africa, whose main thrust is  
106 to deliver water, \$2,000.00; Living Waters Lutheran Church in Buckeye for their summer  
107 program, \$3,000.00; India Christian Resource Center, this is for a young person just  
108 graduating from the seminary going to India as a missionary, \$1,000.00; Word of Life  
109 Lutheran Church for their social patio, \$1,000.00; Christ The Redeemer, a Hispanic  
110 church, for school supplies, \$2,000.00; and the Outreach committee, \$2,000.00. Then for  
111 the annual budget Board of Missions voted to give to Braille, \$1,000.00; Reading for the  
112 Blind, \$1,000.00; Lutheran Bible Translators (Papua, New Guinea), \$1,000.00; LLL  
113 South Africa Lutheran Hour, \$1,000.00; Armed Services Ministry By Mail to furnish  
114 Portals of Prayer, \$1,000.00; and Southwest District, \$2,000.00. The one time  
115 contributions total is \$11,000.00 and the annual contributions total is \$7,000.00, so that is

116 \$18,000.00 of the \$24,600.00. The committee decided that God will guide them on how  
117 to spend the rest of the monies.

- 118 • Bob Gehrke made a comment from an Outreach point of view. When COL was a  
119 growing congregation and was in agreement with the allocation of how COL's mission  
120 money was being done to grow the Kingdom of God. Are mission focus ought to be  
121 shifting in a direction that were serving more of the community, which in turn, hopefully,  
122 will see us being of value and come join us. There are all good causes, but COL is now a  
123 declining congregation. The community is changing and we need to find ways of  
124 attracting the people from the local community to COL. Bob feels that in the near term  
125 the emphasis needs to on COL and the community around us. Vicar Gary talked some  
126 about the mission inside the walls of Sun City West with regard to the un-churched or de-  
127 churched people, which amount to approximately 68%.

128  
129  
130 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** (Bob Mansfield)

- 131 • Bob related that the Trustees currently have a limit of \$5,000.00 that they can spend at  
132 any one time. Does the Council then have a limit or does everything over \$5,000.00 have  
133 to go to a Voters meeting? Daryl stated that is his understanding. How long has that  
134 limitation been around? Bob then suggested that we go with the \$5,000.00/\$10,000.00  
135 for the Trustees, but allow the Council to go to \$25,000.00/\$50,000.00 and then anything  
136 over \$50,000 go to the Voters Assembly. It was mentioned that if the Trustees have a  
137 budgeted item for example replacement of an air conditioner, then they would not need to  
138 get approval from the Voters. What if one goes out that was not budgeted for? The  
139 Council should be able to approve this, but cannot if the limit is not raised. This subject  
140 was brought up because the Trustees are getting ready to have the church painted inside  
141 and outside. Daryl stated that in reviewing the Constitution and the By-laws they just  
142 talked about that the \$5,000.00 was an old number and was dated and needs to be updated  
143 now.
- 144 • Bob's next question had to do with the video project and was COL going to go forward  
145 with it? Bob stated that he had just set up a committee for redoing the lights in the  
146 sanctuary and advised that since he heard about the possibility of going forward on the  
147 video project he would hold that off. Vicar Gary said that when the video project goes  
148 forward that there will be a need to have it spot lighted. A short discussion ensued with  
149 the thought that Bob could go ahead with the committee for redoing the lights. Also,  
150 there was a discussion of just what the meaning of video ministry is and what could be  
151 accomplished.

158 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** (Daryl Irmer reported)

159

- 160 • The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee is working hard and they have pretty much everything  
161 arranged on April 3rd. Guest pastors are set up for the spring and will be held in  
162 abeyance during the summer. Then started again in the fall for the guest pastors. Bob  
163 Gehrke suggested that we invite community leaders, i.e., PORA, etc, as guests of COL.  
164 A question was asked about the budget for this. Daryl said that they are staying within  
165 the budget.

166

167

168 **VICAR GARY'S REPORT:** (Vicar Gary reported)

169

- 170 • This is the Finals week for the winter quarter. He is in the process of writing his thesis on  
171 Pastoral Care and Outreach Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church. This will complete his  
172 first year. Next class begins March 7<sup>th</sup>. He has enjoyed the past year even though it has  
173 been a lot of work. There are currently 177 students in SMP. He has three more years of  
174 school. There is one more year before ordination. The process will involve a call  
175 meeting during the November Voters Assembly. All the call documents must be  
176 completed in St. Louis before he goes back to St. Louis in the March to April, 2012 time  
177 frame. The students will have their faculty interviews during the week. They will then  
178 vote to certify the students. Then it will go the Council of Presidents for their  
179 certification. Upon successful completion of that phase the students will go through  
180 ordination.

181

182 **PASTOR'S REPORT:** (Pastor Phill absent during this portion of the meeting)

183

184

185 **OLD BUSINESS:** (Bob Gehrke)

186

- 187 • Bob discussed the proposed restated Constitution, By-laws, and new Policy Manual. He  
188 first went over a sheet that showed how many the Constitution and the Bylaws needed to  
189 be changed during the history of COL's existence. He said he would like to suggest we  
190 do is find a way, if there is a way, of making our Constitution and Bylaws tamper proof.  
191 Why do we have to tamper with these documents all the time, because we have to change  
192 the \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00? Synod recommends that COL construct their Constitution  
193 and Bylaws in such a way that they do not have to be changed. By moving things which  
194 are more policy oriented out of them. We need to move such things as job descriptions,

195 Columbarium policy, our policy on gifts and donations, which are policy in the Bylaws.  
196 Synod says to get those type of things out of there. In order to do this we need to  
197 establish a third governing document and that would be what Bob calls a Policy Manual,  
198 which would pickup all those items currently in the other two documents, Organizational  
199 Manual and Bylaws that deal specifically with policy. Since this will be a Voters  
200 document, any changes made, would have to be ratified by the Voters Assembly. Any  
201 changes to policy by the Council would be in effect as of the date approved by the  
202 Church Council, but then would need to be ratified by the Voters Assembly. If they turn  
203 it down, then the policy would revert back to the old policy. Synod and District would  
204 not need to see any changes to the Policy Manual, nor would they care to see them. Ron  
205 had several procedural questions and comments about the restated Constitution and  
206 Bylaws. Daryl asked if we need a special Council meeting to go over the changes on the  
207 restated Constitution and Bylaws. The response was yes, so he set up a meeting for  
208 Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 8:30 A.M. The restated Constitution and Bylaws will be  
209 gone over paragraph by paragraph. As far as the Policy Manual only the Table of  
210 Contents will be furnished to the Church Council, until it is completed.

211

212

213 **CORRESPONDENCE:** None

214

215

216 **NEW BUSINESS:** None

217

218

219 The next monthly Council meeting will be held March 15, 2011 at 9:00 A.M.

220

221 The meeting was closed with the prayer by Pastor Phill.

222

223 Howard R. Ludden

224

225

226 Recording Secretary