

# ***CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES***

## ***Crown of Life Lutheran Church***

***March 15, 2011***

Vice President Bill Stark called the monthly Council meeting to order. Pastor Phill gave a devotion based on Genesis 3:15. One of COL's members recently asked him if that passage gave absolution. Pastor stated that he feels there was no verbal absolution given at the time of Adam and Eve. Further discussion of this developed that because of Adam's personal relationship with God and his belief that God is and his love and devotion to God may have given Adam that absolution. Those members present at this meeting were Pastor Phill, Vicar Gary, Daryl Irmer, Bill Stark, Dan Mehner, Lowell Koelling, Mike Dill, Bob Gehrke, Jerry McCall, Bob Mansfield and Howard Ludden. Rev. Jerry Scansen and Ron Pearson were absented.

Guests: None

**A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the February 15, 2011 Council meeting. Motion carried.**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Dan Mehner reported)

- Y.T.D. Budgeted Receipts: \$145,632.00
- Y.T.D. Actual Receipts: \$154,634.00

- Y.T.D. Budgeted Expenses: \$128,333.00
- Y.T.D. Actual Expenses: \$130,080.00

- Total Assets: \$2,393,214.00
- Long Term Debt \$162,443.00

- Copy of the financial report is attached.
- Cash in Operating Funds is \$105,251 and in Dedicated Funds is \$400,399. They are going to transfer \$100,000 from checking into savings. There is a slight difference in interest and can always pull the money back if it is needed.
- Dan then went on to say we show budgeted income of \$145,632, but we have actually taken in \$143,862. In January there was \$5,050 that was put in for the entire year giving. So Dan divided that by 12 and multiplied by 2 and took that out to make it more realistic. So our actual income after Dan took this out was \$143,862 and budgeted was \$145,632.

39 We are down; normally for this time of the year we should be up. Because in the summer  
40 we are going to take that slide going down until the end of the year. He just wants the  
41 Council to be aware that contributions looks like they are down from what they should be  
42 or what we expect them to be. A short discussion ensued about IRA contributions for  
43 2010 and 2011 may affect contributions for this year.

- 44 • Dan stated that the Financial Committee met to approve \$1,805 for tuition this quarter for  
45 Vicar Gary. There will also be one due in the summer when the Council does not meet.  
46 Dan asked for approval to cover \$1,805 for this quarter and the tuition due for the summer  
47 quarter, which should probably be the same.

48

49 **A motion was made and seconded to approve the request to pay Vicar Gary's tuition for**  
50 **this quarter and the summer session. Motion carried.**

51

52

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

54

- 55 • Lowell stated that in the Financial Committee meeting yesterday that they talked about the  
56 ordering of envelopes for 2012. They discussed the situation where we have a growing  
57 number of unassigned envelopes. Our highest numbered envelope is now 625 and in  
58 checking with Sue he finds that we have only 512 active assigned numbers within that  
59 range. This means we are ordering more than 100 envelopes than what we actually need.  
60 We have gotten into that situation for a couple of reasons. One is that once you are  
61 assigned an envelope number that stays with you as long as you are a member here. The  
62 way these excess numbers are generated, of course, is when people leave. Now Sue is  
63 assigning some these unused numbers to the new people that come in. He does not know  
64 if that has been the history all the time. So anyway to avoid the additional expense  
65 ordering envelopes that are not going to be used, what we would like to do is reassign  
66 numbers. We would start all over in 2012, which means at a point they would all be  
67 alphabetical and numerical and would coincide. The Financial Committee would like to  
68 do is plan on reassigning numbers thereby reducing the order for new envelopes for 2012.  
69 They plan on ordering 550 and last year it was approximately 625. This would save 75  
70 envelopes and at about \$3.00 a box will relate to approximately \$200 in savings. Pastor  
71 asked if we could put a new envelope in the packet quarterly for the Endowment Fund. A  
72 short discussion followed this suggestion and other comments about envelopes. It was  
73 also mentioned that people need to be aware of the Thrivent "Choice Dollars". There was  
74 no objection to the Financial Committee going ahead with their plan to reduce the number  
75 of envelopes ordered and reassigning numbers for 2012.

76

77

78 **BOARD OF ELDERS:** (Mike Dill reported in Ron Pearson's absence)

79

- 80 • Saturday congregation likes the meditation music during communion. There is a plan to
- 81 continue this practice. Pastor mentioned that this will be moved into Sunday as well.
- 82 • The Elders talked about some complaints with regard to the volume of the organ music.
- 83 Ron will handle this situation with the organist.
- 84 • In their meeting the Elders discussed whether Elders should be trained to give
- 85 communion to shut-ins and home bound members.

86

87

88 **BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP:**

89

- 90 • No report

91

92

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

94

- 95 • Nothing to report at this time.

96

97

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

99

- 100 • Jerry reported that the Board of Missions is in the process of disbursing the special
- 101 allocation that they did. Some of them will take a little bit of time, because of some
- 102 extenuating circumstances.
- 103 • The Mission Board has taken a look at the Jerusalem portion of their budget. In that
- 104 regard they contacted Pastor Eichman of Pan de Vida Iglesia Luterana Evangelica. That
- 105 is where our food bank goes every month. They found they are short of funds. They had
- 106 a hot water heater in their church building that broke down and do not have any money to
- 107 repair it. Further, Pastor Eichman has not been able to pay his health insurance. The
- 108 committee determined to allocate some money to buy a new water heater.
- 109 • The bowling alley has an advertising program. He has had experience with it through a
- 110 social club he belongs to and they advertised there in November and December. They
- 111 received a pretty substantial response from it. So he contacted the lady who handles the
- 112 advertising. They have a "reader" screen in between two scoring screens. To put an ad
- 113 on there it has a set up fee of \$25. The advertising cost then would be monthly \$30, for 3
- 114 months it would be \$90, for 6 months it would be \$150, and for 12 months it would be

115 \$270. Compared to newspaper rates that pretty reasonable. The question was asked does  
116 the bowling alley have any figures on the potential number of people that would read  
117 those “reader” screens. He will go ahead with the advertising after he runs it by his  
118 committee.

- 119 • Yesterday Jerry made contact with Pastor Artigas. His main point of contacting him was  
120 to find out way they have not had a meeting. We used have a quarterly meeting. He said  
121 there was nothing to meet about. He is very discouraged and depressed, because he has  
122 been working for half salary. He is still working. He is having two Lenten services. One  
123 at Santo Tomas down at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Baseline and one at Gracia Lutheran Church at  
124 E. Portland Street. One is on Wednesday and one on Thursday, both at 6 P.M. And he is  
125 still having his four Sunday services. The financial situation is getting worse because  
126 District is behind in their payments. Last summer in the four Sunday services there was  
127 an average attendance of 120 members. Pastor Artigas ran two vacation Bible Schools  
128 and 160 was his contact there. He had a number of baptisms and confirmations.  
129 Basically after the people get on their feet, they move out of the area, where the churches  
130 are. Pastor Phill said that there is no tracking, so not sure what the actual number is of  
131 people moving in and where they consequently resettle. They do not have a Board of  
132 Elders to keep track of the members. The Pacific Southwest District has withheld all  
133 their distributions for a month to all of its missions. There are four of them in our area.  
134 The Mission Board agreed to give Pastor Artigas some additional money during this  
135 period because of the hardship it causes him and his ministry. They are looking at  
136 helping out a couple of other parishes, one in Buckeye and Pan de Vida, with their VBS,  
137 if they choose to do it.

138  
139  
140 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** (Bob Mansfield)

- 141  
142 • Nothing to report at this time. He did say that he appreciates people bringing things to his  
143 attention that need attention, because it is hard to have “eyes” all over the place.

144  
145  
146 **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** (Daryl Irmer reported)

- 147  
148 • Nothing specific at this time.
- 149  
150  
151  
152

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

154

- 155 • He is back in class for the spring quarter. He will be on campus in St. Louis for classes  
156 during the second week in April and again in June. The SMP are on their fifth program  
157 now and have over 200 students. There is music convocation in Seward in July and  
158 Thrivent has graciously offered to pay the expenses of any Vicars that want to go to it.

159

160

161 **PASTOR'S REPORT:** (Pastor Phill)

162

- 163 • He has nothing specific to report at this time. In response to a question about the current  
164 Lenten bible studies, he stated that there are a large number fewer bible study groups this  
165 time compared to last year. That could be marketing or it could well be the topic. As it is  
166 just a little more difficult to get into as compared to last year's study. They will have the  
167 Easter Sunrise Service, but they are expecting fewer people, as quite a few of the winter  
168 people will have already gone back. There will be the two regular Easter services on  
169 Sunday and also the Saturday service will be an Easter service. Rev. Dr. Stoterau will be  
170 preaching all three services on December 10<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup> as a close out to our  
171 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

172

173

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

175

- 176 • Bob suggested that the change in the Constitution, Bylaws and policies be presented in  
177 two packages. The only 'real' change that is taking place is in the qualifications for  
178 office in the congregation. The rest of it is all rearranging stuff around or restating things  
179 a little bit here and there. Changing things like the definition of a quorum, basically  
180 things that are in his mind non-controversial. So what he would like to suggest at the  
181 April 10 Voters' Assembly that it be presented to the voters that first presentation be  
182 made to them on the change in the formatting, the restating of the Constitution and the  
183 Bylaws without detail. Hopefully they will have been given a written copy of the revised  
184 Bylaws and Constitution on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. That is the first Saturday service two  
185 weekends before the meeting. This is just a presentation. It has to be presented twice,  
186 after the second time there is a vote taken. He proposes that we separate two things one  
187 is the change or restatement of our Constitution and Bylaws and present that as one thing  
188 that we are planning to do or like to do. Then the second separate from that is the change  
189 in the qualifications for holding office here in the congregation. Bob presented two  
190 resolutions, one to 'Restate the Constitution and Bylaws' and the second one to 'Change

191 Qualifications for Holding Office’. The first resolution with regard to restating the  
192 Constitution and Bylaws gives information of the changes made in COL’s Constitution  
193 and Bylaws in our first twenty-five years; twenty –five changes were made. Then it  
194 outlines Synod’s guidelines for Constitution and Bylaws that need to be followed.  
195 Uniformity is desired in the constitutions and bylaws and that they are brief, but  
196 adequate. Another guideline is that constitutions should establish only those offices,  
197 boards, and other committees that form the essential framework of the congregation,  
198 outlining only the basic duties of those offices. The detailed duties of those positions  
199 would be in policy manuals. What he is suggesting here is that we present this kind of  
200 detail about the restating of the Constitution and Bylaws at the Voters Assembly in April.  
201 In the fall we will restate that. A question was asked that will he invite comment and  
202 response during his presentation in April; not to be answered at that time, but what is the  
203 opportunity for people to respond to the presentation. He thinks at that time announce  
204 that there can be a workshop or two workshops for people to attend, if they want to work  
205 through issues or discuss things more fully or get their feelings made known. Vicar Gary  
206 suggested that after the presentation, also, that we ask for written questions prior to the  
207 date of the workshop, so leaders could address concerns and questions from the  
208 congregation. It was suggested to give the congregation a 30-day period of time to  
209 submit their concerns and questions. Then feedback would be given to the congregation  
210 prior to the workshops that would be held during the fall. The last section details the  
211 general action that is being proposed. Bob stated the last five points at the end of the first  
212 resolution may be reordered or changed. The second resolution has to do with changes in  
213 qualifications for holding office in COL’s congregation. The first four paragraphs of this  
214 resolution is from PSW District that intimate that we are not quite up to ‘snuff’ in that  
215 area. He also presented and explained a pictorial diagram of ‘Crown of Life Lutheran  
216 Church Organizational Overview’, which he suggested be included in the Congregational  
217 Manual. The Congregational Manual will have five sections; two for the Constitution  
218 (Intro and Constitution), one for Bylaws, one for the policies and one for the Articles of  
219 Incorporation. There is an e-manual included at the back. Several comments and  
220 suggestions were made with regard to the presentation to the Voters Assembly. One was  
221 to limit discussion during the Voters Assembly during the spring meeting, since the  
222 congregation will have the opportunity to respond in writing with workshops to follow, if  
223 needed. A question was asked about non-budgeted \$5,000.00 limitation be put in a  
224 policy statement and it was agreed to move it from the Bylaws to the policy manual.  
225 Pastor Phill asked that in the Second Resolution, the paragraph starting with ‘Second’  
226 that a scriptural reference of “I Timothy 3” be added in there somewhere. Pastor Phill,  
227 also, asked that the Mission Statement in Paragraph 2.0 of the Constitution be replace  
228 with the wording as shown in the handout that was furnished to each Council member in  
229 order to reduce the wording. This wording would also replace what is currently on the  
230 website. A suggestion was made to end the first sentence after the word ‘all’. A question  
231 was asked is there a way to determine if COL’s is meeting our mission. How do we  
232 measure our success? It was suggested we reword the Mission Statement as follows:  
233 “We accomplish this mission by preaching the Word of God, we administer the

234           Sacraments, we provide religious instructions to all people and we encourage the growth  
235 of God's church through mission work." This was agreeable to all present. A discussion  
236 about the number of copies that should be made to handed out to the congregation. It was  
237 decided that at least three hundred copies be made or enough for one copy per household.

238

239 **A motion was made and seconded to approve Bob Gehrke's method to present the**  
240 **changes/revisions to the Constitution, Bylaws and policies to the Voters Assembly. Motion**  
241 **carried.**

242

- 243           • Daryl recognized Bob Gehrke's hard work on the Constitution, Bylaws and the policy  
244           manual.

245

246 **CORRESPONDENCE:** None

247

248

249 **NEW BUSINESS:** None

250

251

252 The next monthly Council meeting will be held Friday, April 8, 2011 at 9:00 A.M.

253

254 The meeting was closed with the prayer by Vicar Gary.

255

256 Howard R. Ludden

257

258

259 Recording Secretary