

Desert Cross Lutheran Church Council Minutes
December 21, 2020
Zoom Video Meeting

Present: Shannon Burns, Stan Fernandes, Glenn Tischaefter, Vince Sciame, Jennifer Piellucci, Patrick Jennett, Bill Kalaf, Anna Pelley

Absent: Angela Nannenga, Tom Rewolinski

Staff: Andrea Cain, Doug Bjotvedt

Devotions: Anna opened with devotions.

Agenda/Minutes Approval: Patrick moved and Vince seconded the acceptance of the December Agenda and the acceptance of the November Minutes. Council approved the motion unanimously.

Old Business:

1. **Pastor Thadd Call Update** – Pastor Andrea shared that Pastor Thadd’s first Sunday will be January 10, 2021. Plans are underway for a virtual Installation Service on January 17, 2021. This service will be held using the Zoom platform.
2. **Livestream Update** – The needed equipment for having a successful livestream service is still coming in. At this point we are waiting for COVID numbers to go down again before starting livestream services.
3. **PPP and Forgiveness Update** – Applications for forgiveness are still not being accepted by the banks. Doug continues to wait to hear from the bank as to how we can move forward with the process.

Reports:

1. **President’s Report** – The Annual Meeting was held via Zoom and the 2021 budget was passed. Stan also shared that the executive team met and decided to do a one-time payout to staff for unused vacation days from 2020.
2. **Pastor Andrea** – Has been preparing for Pastor Doris’s last Sunday and the arrival of Pastor Thadd. Continues to spend time planning for both Advent and Christmas. Overall things are going well. There were questions and a discussion about communion since we are still worshipping virtually. Pastor Andrea shared that this will be part of the Christmas Eve service and might be something that is added to services moving forward.
3. **Financial Report** – Giving was down in November – overall giving is tracking \$58,000 less than last year. Actual income to expenses has us at a loss of \$150,000. Doug shared that a footnote explaining the deficit in 2020 and surplus in 2021 related to PPP funds was created for the Annual Report. There was discussion as to how to promote Christmas Eve services and the ability to give financially. There was also discussion regarding ways to increase our online presence to promote involvement, giving, and serving from viewers. Vince moved and Bill seconded that we accept the financial report as presented. Council approved unanimously.
4. **Committee Reports – Stewardship:** The Stewardship Campaign is all wrapped up and thank you cards have been sent to all who pledged. Since the Congregational Meeting 5 additional pledge cards have been received. **YAG:** Anna shared that an online game night

is in the works for January. Involvement in Operation Christmas Child went well. They continue to look for new ways to connect virtually.

5. **Gilbert Chamber Report** – The Dogs 4 Vets renovation is moving forward. Currently waiting on the town of Gilbert for final approvals on permits. Bids are currently coming in about \$4500 over budget (the amount of money that has been received from Dogs 4 Vets) so they are working to bring the numbers closer to budget. The Gilbert Chamber will be hosting I-Help in August 2021.
6. **Program Reports** – There was a question and discussion regarding the new DCLC website that Maegan is working on. Thank you to the staff for your ongoing efforts in ministry.

New Business:

1. **Pastor Doris Farewell Reception** – Pastor Doris will have her last Sunday on December 27, 2020. She will be preaching and there will be a farewell reception on Zoom at 10:00AM that day.
2. **Pastor Thadd Welcome Reception** – The Welcome Committee at Gilbert is working on activities to welcome Pastor Thadd and his family. There will be a welcome reception on Zoom following the Installation Service on January 17, 2021.

Prayer Concerns: Prayers of healing for Stephanie who dislocated both shoulders, and for Tom who is sick tonight. Prayers of comfort and peace for the family of Leonard Landa on his passing.

Next Council Meeting: January 18, 2021

The meeting was adjourned and closed with Pastor Andrea leading us in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Piellucci, Council Secretary