

1911 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

[List of Church Officers for 1911 (Elders, Council Members, Trustees), including addresses (p. 280)]

4 January [pp. 281—282] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair announced that the business for 1910 was completed. The council then organized itself for the upcoming year, beginning with the election of officers. They elected Christian F. Gennerich as council chair. The chair reported that the board of trustees had met the previous evening and elected him to be president of the congregation. It also elected Charles Krumweide treasurer and A. B. Schmidt secretary. The chair and secretary each pledged \$1,000 as security bond for the treasurer. The council also established other committees, including one to lease pew seats. They decided to hold the next collection for the Lutheran Hospital on January 8 and to invite women and children to the next congregational meeting. They also decided to recommend, at the next congregational meeting, that the trustees be given the authority to sell the church property whenever they receive an appropriate offer. The trustees also wanted to recommend that steam heating and electric lighting be included in the renovations that were made when the front stairs were removed. The chair had renovation plans for review and wanted to begin the renovations as soon as possible.

16 January [pp. 283—291] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. New members were accepted. Pr. Koepchen read his very detailed, sermonic annual report [pp. 283—288]

Statistics from the pastor's report:

- Lord's Supper: 17 occasions; 1008 communicants
- Sunday School: (German) - 304 students, 13 male teachers, 21 female teachers
- Sunday School: (English) - 141 students, 7 male teachers, 11 female teachers
- Bible Class: no numbers
- Baptisms: 93 children
- Confirmed: 53
- Married: 53 couples
- Burials: 58

Report of the Sunday School Superintendent (addition to the pastor's report)"

- Books 1,225; library books 437
- Account balance on January 1, 1911: \$151.95
- Donation to the Missions Fund: \$255.64
- Donations to the Lutheran Hospital: \$20

The secretary then read his brief report. There followed reports from other committees and elections of representatives to several institutions. The chair reported on the

removal of the front steps and accompanying renovations as well as inquiries to secure a loan for the renovations. The meeting authorized the board of trustees to secure a loan. To help repay this loan, the congregation approved using an envelope system, to be organized by the board of trustees. The trustees were also given permission to sell the church property for \$375,000. The meeting agreed to hold a collection for the Orphanage in College Point, Queens, on the third Sunday [in February?].

1 February [pp. 292–293] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen announced that Lenten services would begin in March. He also reported that Frau Neumann would be able to enter the *Altenheim*. They council decided, for the time being, to pay the *Altenheim* \$10 per month for her support. They voted to renew the fire insurance that was about to expire in January and to purchase “Builder’s Risk” for the period of the renovation. Further, the organist was about to get married and leave the church. The pastor’s wife will assume the responsibility for the organ choir without compensation. It was decided that Fräulein Neebe [the pastor’s sister-in-law] be sent a letter of thanks for her service to the congregation [as organist and school teacher]. The Sunday School superintendent announced that the Sunday School would donate \$100 to the church; this gift was accepted with thanks. Further, the pastor and the superintendent would determine the time for the Easter Festival. Pr. Koepchen reported that the simplex envelope system had been purchased and would be used beginning in March. It would be distributed two weeks prior to the start date.

1 February [p. 293] – In a special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL immediately following the regular meeting, the members collected \$55 for a gift for Fräulein Neebe. Mrs. Koepchen was asked to purchase a gift on their behalf.

1 March [pp. 294–295] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair announced that he had received a thank-you note from Fräulein Neebe, now Frau Seebeck. [The letter is reproduced in the minutes.] The gift was a dozen sets of silver knives and forks. He informed the meeting that the distribution of the envelopes had begun and that the “fine sum” of \$725.27 already had been received. He further reported that Herr Kirchhus, the organist at Pr. Kiedel’s church, was highly recommended. The council formed a committee to contact him. It was further reported from the meeting of the Greater New York Congregations, that churches should hold their congregational meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and the church council meetings on the last Tuesday of the month. Discussion of this matter was postponed until a later date. Candidate Schroeder, from St. Luke’s, had been asked to become a missionary in Brazil and his request to be ordained at St. Luke’s was approved. The ordination would be held on March 12 at the morning worship service; Pr. Schroeder would be asked to preach at the evening service. The council decided to hold the Sunday School’s Easter Festival on Easter Monday in the evening. They scheduled the next congregational meeting for April 19 and thanked the Sunday School for its gift of \$100.

12 April [pp. 296–298] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. Herr Kirchhus agreed to accept the position of organist for an annual salary of \$900. The reunion of previous confirmands was scheduled for Easter evening. The chair asked the council members to continue distributing envelopes, with a goal of handing out 200. The council decided to cancel morning and evening services and Sunday School on May 12 because Pr. Koepchen would be in St. Louis for a synodical meeting. They would use that time to work on renovating the church basement. The Construction Committee secured a contract with the Amsterdam Building Company, for \$10,863, the lowest bid from several companies. Herr Maute would complete the painting. With other expenses, including the architect's fee, the total cost for the renovations would be \$13,000. This cost was to be covered by a loan at 5% annual interest, to be taken out in July. This sum would be offset until July by loans totaling \$8,500 from several council members (Gennerich \$1,000, Schaefer \$2,500, Maute \$1,000, Tietjen \$2,000, Krumweide \$1,000, Schmidt \$1,000). The board of trustees would deposit this money in a special building fund in a trust company. The trustees also decided to take out a special insurance policy to cover any accidents. The council decided to clean the carpet in the church and to remove the chandelier in order to install electric lights. The church will try to sell the chandelier. The meeting agreed that the contracts should stipulate that the work must be completed by July 3. They scheduled the next congregational meeting for April 20.

20 April [pp. 298–300] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which Pr. Koepchen welcomed new members. The chair announced that Herr Kirchhus had accepted the position of organist and would begin in May. The chair also reported that the removal of the steps and the renovations had begun, and the total cost was estimated to be \$14,000. This sum would be loaned by Fred Hoefner. Until then, some members had provided short-term loans totaling \$8,500. The construction contracts stipulated that the work be completed by July 3 and that the major work on the schoolroom be completed during that time. The chair also noted that the extra expenses for the interest [no number stated], the organist salary (\$380), and insurance (\$361) would be offset by gifts through the envelop system. He encouraged all to participate, He reported that the extra collection for Bethlehem Orphanage had yielded \$784 and that the orphanage festival would take place on Decoration Day. He also noted that the church needed to purchase new hymnals and the Lutheran Hospital needed a new fire escape. The members were asked to support these needs. The meeting decided to cancel all evening services until the second Sunday in September as well as the morning service on May 14 to allow Pr. Koepchen to attend the synod meeting in St. Louis.

3 May [p. 301] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they accepted an offer of \$25 for the chandelier. The chair announced that the new organist had arrived and would play at the next service. He further stated that 320 envelop boxes had been distributed, with 80 remaining, and he hoped that contributions would come in soon. To date \$327 had been donated. Pr. Koepchen reported that he had received a letter of thanks from Pr.

Schroeder in Brazil for the participation and friendship at his ordination on March 12.
[The text of the letter is included in the minutes.]

[p. 302 - crossed out minutes from the Trustees meeting of 16 May]

8 June [pp. 303–304] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that the contractor was making good progress on the renovations and that he had discovered a crack in the back wall near the roof that had to be repaired immediately. Herr D. Hildebrand thanked the council for its participation in his mother's funeral. It was announced that the College Festival would take place on June 18, rather than on June 25. The council decided to cancel worship that day so that members could attend. The Sunday School Festival was scheduled for June 10 in Central Park. The orphanage festival benefited from beautiful weather. There was \$1,389 for the benefit of the congregation.

5 July [pp. 304–305] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair then noted that there would have been no cash-on-hand had the congregation not instituted the envelope system. He reported that the board of trustees had given its consent for a liquor license to the owner of a bar at 236–242 W. 42 St., provided that the bar was not below the second floor. He also announced that the Ladies Aid Society would donate the carpet for the church. The council decided to cancel its August meeting; the officers would decide when to cancel worship services because of the painting. The work on the chimney was complete. Extra work was needed to wash the church and to renovate the Sunday School. It was also reported that Fred Hoefner had loaned the church \$14,000 at 5% annual interest by a note-on-demand. Those who had provided short term loans would receive their money back with 5% annual interest. [List of payments on p. 305].

[No meeting in August 1911]

6 September [pp. 306–307] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that the repairs were nearly finished and that there had been extra expense for painting and washing the walls and ceilings. Also, the floor in the school had been repaired and a handrail added to the steps leading to the sanctuary. The final cost of the renovations would be \$16,000, with the additional \$2,000 to be loaned by Herr Schaefer. The chair encouraged the council members to attend the church reopening on the following Sunday. He further reported that the organs in the church and Sunday School needed to be tuned at a cost of \$60. The trustees hired the organ tuner for \$40 per year. They also purchased a vacuum cleaner for \$125 and 200 hymnals. The council decided to give the janitor a bonus of \$30 for the extra work during the renovation. They further agreed to cancel the September congregational meeting and to hold the Reformation Festival on October 29, with a special collection for the benefit of the congregation.

4 October [pp. 308–309] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair announced that the renovations, with few exceptions, were

complete. The final cost was still \$1,500 over budget, to be paid for by another loan from Herr Schaefer. The chair also reported that the Ladies Aid Society had donated \$482.40 for a new carpet. The council approved a request from Bethlehem Orphanage to hold its 25th anniversary celebration at St. Luke's in November. They also agreed to cancel the evening service that day. It was then announced that the Reformation Festival on October 29 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music would also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of C. F. W. Walther. Churches from Brooklyn, New York, and environs, were invited. The council decided to cancel the Sunday School and evening service that day. The council also approved a request from Pr. Koepchen to preach at a Reformation service in Connecticut that day. The pastor also reported that he would hold a special illustrated lecture on Walther's life on October 25. The council decided to give that evening's collection to the construction fund. They approved a request from Frau Meyers to give her \$21 to help with back rent.

11 November [pp. 310–311] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that the 25th anniversary of Bethlehem Orphanage would take place on November 19. Since the orphanage administration feared that St. Luke's could not accommodate all the guests, they had also reserved the Liberty Theater across the street. They also requested that the church council act as ushers in the church. The chair also noted that the special collection in October for the benefit of the congregation had yielded \$392.94. The Ladies Aid Society planned a social evening on November 15 and sent the council complementary tickets (worth 25¢). The chair then appointed a nominating committee to identify candidates for upcoming vacancies. He noted that there was continued interest in purchasing the church property. The congregation could probably get \$400,000, since the Baptist church across the street had recently sold for \$425,000.

6 December [pp. 311–313] - Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that the special collection for Reformation Day had yielded \$511.69 and that all of the bills for the renovation had been paid. The total cost, including the repayment of the \$8,500 plus interest, was \$24, 230.12. This included the sale of the chandelier and Sunday School fixture for \$25 and \$8 respectively, leaving \$214.21 in the construction fund. The congregation still owed Herr Hoefner \$14,000 and Herr Schaefer \$1,500. The total cost of repairs was \$15,730.91, including \$70.80 interest for short-term loans. The Ladies Aid Society had contributed some \$400 for new carpet. The 25th anniversary festival of Bethlehem Orphanage yielded \$820.50. The orphanage administration had thanked Pr. Koepchen for producing the accompanying booklet. Others also expressed appreciation to St. Luke's for helping with the program. Because Christmas was on a Monday, the council decided to hold services on the 24th in the schoolroom and to cancel the evening services. The council further decided to give the collection on the last Sunday of the year to the Lutheran Hospital. The chair also reported that there was interest in purchasing the church, but as of yet no specific offer. The churches of Greater New York were invited to send council members to attend a meeting at St. Matthew's church on Broome and Elizabeth. The council scheduled its next meeting for the second Wednesday of January to allow for the installation of the newly elected members. Pr.

Koepchen secured a professor to preach for him because he would be at the installation of another pastor. Nominating elections followed.

26 December [pp. 314–315] - Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which Reinhold Lamfe was welcomed into membership. The chair reported that renovations had been completed at a cost of \$15,660.04 and that all bills had been paid. The church's total debt was now \$15,500. He also announced that Herr Hildebrandt had donated \$50 to the church and \$50 to the Bethlehem Orphanage in memory of his mother. The congregation also received a thank you letter from the orphanage for assisting during the anniversary celebration. The election of officers for 1912 followed; newly elected officers were to be installed on January 7.

[pp. 315–316 - Thank you letter from Bethlehem Orphanage.]