

1913 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

8 January [pp. 353–354] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which F.W. Maute was elected temporary chair. The treasurer presented his quarterly report. The chair proclaimed the business of the previous year completed. The council then elected officers for 1913. J. Louis Schaefer was elected chair. The new chair requested that all stand and observe a moment of silence for the late Christian F. Gennerich. Herr Schaefer also announced that he and Fred Hoefner had provided the usual \$1,000 bond each for the treasurer. Assignments for committees followed. The council decided to recommend continuing the envelope system at the next congregational meeting. They also agreed to hold a special collection for Bethlehem Orphanage in College Point, Queens, on the third Sunday in February. Pr. Koepchen noted that the Lenten services would begin on the first Wednesday in February.

[List of Church Officers for 1913 (Elders, Council Members, Trustees), including addresses (p. 355)]

20 January [pp. 356–363] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. Pr. Koepchen welcomed new members. He then read his very detailed annual report (included in the minutes, pp. 356–361).

Statistics from the report [there were very few statistics in the report]:

- Confirmed: 40
- Communed: 1,014

Statistics from the Sunday School Superintendent's report [pp. 361–362];

- Children: 265 (German), 90 (English)
- Teachers: 26 (German – 13 male, 13 female); 15 (English – 8 male, 7 female)
- Books: 1,167
- Bank Account as of 1 January 1913: \$63.66
- Missionary Donations: \$164.32
- Hospital Donations: \$20

The Secretary then read his brief report, followed by reports from various committees. Henry Suhrig would replace the recently deceased Herr Gennerich on the board of trustees and Paul Missall would replace the late Herr Schroeder. The congregation then approved the delegates to the various institutions as well as the recommendation to hold a special collection for the orphanage on the third Sunday in February. They also supported the recommendation to continue the envelope system for a year. Finally, the meeting decided to revive printing *Altes und Neues*.

8 February [pp. 364–365] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that, because of the storm, some of the slates on the east tower had been dislodged and had fallen through the neighbor's skylight, for which the congregation was responsible. The Repair Committee will retrieve the slates and make necessary repairs to the tower. He also reminded the council that the collection for the orphanage will occur on the third Sunday in February. He then reported that he had ordered 500 boxes of envelopes and

he asked the council members to help distribute them. Since Easter came early this year, Pr. Koepchen recommended that the publication of *Altes und Neues* be delayed to be able to provide complete information about the collections for the orphanage and from the envelope system. The council approved publication for the third Sunday in April. The council then approved a recommendation to have the Choral Society hold a concert in the schoolroom on May 8.

3 March [pp. 365–366] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that the repairs to the tower had been completed. He announced that, based on the 1912 report, the church's finances were in poor condition. He noted that St. Luke's would incur additional expenses for hosting the synod convention for six days in the spring, including providing food. Also, by the end of the year, fire insurance would have to be renewed at a cost of \$360. Therefore, he urged the council members to distribute the envelopes. He also reported that the examination of confirmands was scheduled for the next Sunday, March 9, and that Confirmation would take place on Palm Sunday. Pr. Koepchen reported that the Sunday School Festival would occur on Easter evening. The council decided to cancel the typically poorly attended service on Easter Monday morning and to try to attend Pr. Koepchen's evening slide lecture.

[p.367 – Text of a condolence letter from Julius Behm, secretary of the Bethlehem Orphanage, on the death of Herr Gennerich.)

2 April [pp. 368–369] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. A. B. Schmidt reported that the special collection for the orphanage yielded \$790. The council approved the Sunday School's request to hold the June walk in Central Park. The Repair Committee reported that they would provide the funds for the final roof repairs, costing approximately \$40. The committee would also care for Pr. Busse's gravesite (All Faith Cemetery, Middle Village, Queens). They received a letter of appreciation from Frau Busse for this service. Pr. Koepchen reported that the next congregational meeting would take place on April 21 and that *Altes und Neues* would soon be ready. He also announced the plans for the upcoming synod convention (May 14–20). The council appointed a committee to work with the Ladies Aid Society in preparing meals.

21 April [pp. 370–371] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which Pr. Koepchen reported that the Ladies Aid Society had agreed to provide meals for the pastors and delegates at the upcoming synod conference. The meeting decided to send out a letter soliciting the congregation for contributions to the cost of the convention. A steering committee for the convention would soon meet at the pastor's house. The chair reported that the care for Pr. Busse's gravesite would cost \$42 and that the work would be completed this week. He then announced that tickets were available for this year's orphanage festival on June 12. Pr. Koepchen invited the council members to attend the worship services at the convention when possible.

7 May [pp. 371–372] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Herr Maute reported that the repairs to Pr. Busse’s gravesite would be completed the following week. Pr. Koepchen reported that the members of the congregation had received a letter asking them to contribute to the cost of the upcoming synod convention. Further, the council decided to install a telephone in the vestibule (narthex?) so that delegates could communicate with their congregations. The Ladies Aid Society had begun preparing for the meals, including procuring utensils. The Repair Committee reported that all necessary repairs had been completed.

4 June [pp. 372–373] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen thanked the congregation, and especially the Ladies Aid Society, for the love and friendliness shown to convention participants. He noted that the attendance had increased to 200 instead of the expected 150–160 participants over the 9 [?] days. The total cost was \$414.76. To date congregational gifts of \$359.54 had been collected, so 55.22 was still needed to cover the remaining expenses. The council then denied the Young People’s Society’s request to hold a dance after the next concert. They also voted to print the English liturgy and attach it to the English hymnal. Herr Maute reported that repairs on Pr. Busse’s gravesite were complete.

9 July [p.374] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The council decided to cancel worship services and Saturday school in August and to give Pr. Koepchen this period for vacation. They also decided to cancel the August council meeting. It was reiterated that Pr. Busse’s gravesite had been repaired and paid for. Pr. Koepchen again noted that he had received a letter of gratitude from Busse’s widow. At the last meeting, representatives of the Young People’s Group had led the council to think that they were formally acting the Group’s behalf. This was not the case; those who had requested the dance had done so of their own accord.

[No Church Council meeting in August 1913.]

10 September [pp. 375–376]- Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which they received a letter of appreciation from Frau Busse for the care of her husband’s gravesite. The council decided to hold a special collection at the Reformation Festival for the benefit of the congregation. Pr. Koepchen reported that morning worship services have resumed and requested that the council members and their families attend to set a good example. The evening services would begin on September 21. He also reported that the congregation was invited to the Lutheran Hospital Festival on September 14. Concordia College now had an enrollment of some 120 students. The council then approved a request from Pr. Koepchen for him to give a presentation at the Teacher’s Seminary in Chicago in October. Koepchen also reported that Elder William Fajen may need an operation in the next week. He announced that the confirmation class was about to begin and asked if anyone knew of children he might invite. He also reported that the secretary had attempted to solicit the contributions that several members had pledged

to help Concordia College repay its debt. At the present time, the congregation's account did not have enough funds to fulfill the pledge.

1 October [pp. 376–377] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the treasurer presented his quarterly report. The owner of the restaurant at 229 W. 42 St. inquired if the congregation would object to his obtaining a liquor license. After some deliberation, the question was laid on the table until the next meeting. In the mean time the council would request more information from the restaurateur. The secretary was instructed to send a letter of consolation to Herr Fajen, who was very ill. The secretary reported that he had collected \$125 to help repay the college debt. He had handed this sum to Pr. Koepchen for delivery. Pr. Koepchen announced that, while he was in Chicago, Professor Heinrichsmeier, would preach on October 12. He also reported that the Confirmation Class had 41 students and the Sunday School Reformation Festival would take place on the second Sunday in November.

19 October [pp. 378–379] – Special meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the chair reported that Herr Fajen had passed away. The secretary was instructed to write a letter of condolence to the family and to include a copy of that letter in the minutes. [Included] The members then decided to attend the funeral and to take a collection to pay for their transportation and for flowers for the gravesite.

5 November [pp. 379–380] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which the delegate to the orphanage asked to use the schoolroom for its next meeting because St. Matthew's had sold its property. The council approved this request. The chair reported that the special collection had yielded \$390 to date. The chair then named a nominating committee for upcoming vacancies. After much discussion, the council decided not to support the restaurateur's request for a liquor license. The chair then read a thank you letter from Frau Fajen for the church's contribution to her husband's funeral. [A copy of the letter is included in the minutes.] Pr. Koepchen reported that the Sunday School would hold its Reformation Festival on November 9 at 7:30PM.

3 December [pp. 381–382] – Meeting of the CHURCH COUNCIL at which Pr. Koepchen reported that the Mission for the Deaf had asked to use St. Luke's school room for its Christmas Festival on the afternoon of December 27. The council approved this request. The council also approved a request from the Sunday School to hold its Christmas festival on the evening of December 25 in the schoolroom. Pr. Koepchen then thanked the council for its gift for the 25th anniversary of his ordination. The pastor was given authority to handle Herr Brunner's request to be relieved from office. The nominating committee then gave its report. Pr. Koepchen noted that some members had not yet signed the constitution and could do so at the next congregational meeting.

26 December [pp. 383–384] – Quarterly CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at which the chair announced that the main purposes of the meeting were to rent to pew seats and to hold elections for 1914. He then thanked the Sunday School superintendent and Pr. Koepchen for their faithful service over the last year. He reported that the special collection for the

Reformation Festival had yielded \$475. Elections followed. Those newly elected would be installed at the morning service on January 4.