

Minutes of the Church Council meeting held on Monday evening, June 15, 1959, at 7 o'clock. A total of 16 Church Council members were present together with Pastor Neibacher. The names are on file.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. B. K. Schaefer, and opened with prayer by Pastor Neibacher.

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted as read.

The Treasurer submitted a written report for the period January 1 to May 31. After a brief study and discussion, the report was ordered received and placed on file.

The House Committee report was given by Mr. J. Louis Schaefer, who stated that he, together with the Committee, recommended approval of the following expenditures:

Painting, \$1,235.00; roof and gutter repairs, \$270.00; plumbing and furnace repairs, \$310.00; removal of pigeons, \$125.00; these items total \$1,990.00, in addition to which several hundred dollars additional would be required to take care of various minor items during the Summer which required attention. After a brief discussion, the House Committee was authorized to spend upto \$2,000. for the foregoing items, other than the miscellaneous minor items which were also approved but not specifically identified.

At the conclusion of the House Committee report, the Chairman advised the Church Council that the entire staff had expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Church Council for the salary increases which had been authorized effective July 1, in addition to which our Parish Worker, Miss Martha Eber's letter of thanks was read to the Church Council.

Mr. Fred Nagel reporting orally for the Auditing Committee, stated that "The Treasurer's books have been examined and found to be in order."

Pastor Neibacher reported on the following:

1. That a formal Call addressed to Mr. Harold Roellig had been sent to Dr. Rippe and that it was in the course of being processed.

2. That he had attended further meetings on both the housing and re-zoning of this area.

3. That the Ladies' Aid had requested permission from the Church Council to place a name plate on one of the Church pews in memory of Mrs. Bertha Hartmann, one of its members. After a brief discussion, the request was granted, provided that a plate similar to those now in use be used.

4. Recommended to the Church Council that our Vicar, Mr. Leon Gogl, be given a departure bonus in recognition of his year's work in the Congregation. After a brief discussion, the Church Council authorized a payment of \$250.00 to Mr. Gogl.

At the conclusion of Pastor Neibacher's report, the Chairman stated that considerable correspondence had been sent and received in connection with the proposed firehouse opposite the Church property, and that the correspondence was available to anyone wishing to read it.

The next item of business called for by the Chairman was the report of the Committee appointed at the May meeting to make a study of ways and means of obtaining additional monies with which to meet both present and future increased operating expenses.

The Committee thereupon distributed mimeographed copies of both its findings and its recommendations, to all who were present, in addition to which the entire report was read aloud.

After prolonged discussion and deliberation, the report of the Committee was somewhat revised and after further discussion and deliberation the revised report was unanimously adopted. A copy of the revised report is attached to, and made a part of, these minutes, in addition to which additional copies are available for distribution this evening.

Minutes of a special meeting of the Summer Executive Committee held on Tuesday evening, July 14, 1959, in the Study of the Parish House.

The Committee, consisting of Messrs. Jean Baridon, Joseph Miranda, Frank Burger, Henry J. Koester and Carl H. Sievers, called itself into session on its own motion in order to consider the following items of business:

1. A request by the Special Fund Raising Committee (which had reported at the June meeting of the Church Council) to be re-appointed and specifically authorized to formulate plans for carrying into effect points II and III of its recommendations which were adopted at the June meeting.

After a brief discussion, the Committee was authorized to continue to function for the purpose of carrying into effect points II and III of its recommendations and, in its discretion, to add to its number additional members of the Church Council.

2. To consider the need of liquidating a part of the securities allocated to the Operating Deficit Reserve Fund, the creation of which was authorized at the June meeting, in order to pay current operating and authorized repair and maintenance expenses. After a brief discussion, and on the basis of assurance by the Treasurer that income received during the month of June, together with income which would be received during July and August, including anticipated normal Church service collection receipts, would be sufficient to meet the foregoing expenses, it was agreed that no present need existed to sell any of the reserve fund securities at this time.

In addition to the full Committee, Pastor Neibacher and Robert Willner were also present.

The meeting adjourned after consideration of the foregoing two matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl H. Sievers, Secretary

WHEREAS St. Luke's Lutheran Church is committed by divine injunction to serve the Times Square area of New York City, and

WHEREAS it has to the best of its ability endeavored to meet and to fulfill its divine objects and purposes during the almost one hundred and ten years of its existence, and

WHEREAS drastic and far-reaching changes have occurred in our area, with the result that an all time low has been reached both in the morale of the people and in the standard of living in this area due primarily to continuing property and neighborhood deterioration which have adversely affected and continue to threaten the religious, social, civic and economic status of the neighborhood and its people, and

WHEREAS there are finally many promising indications that these and other detrimental prevailing conditions will be halted and improved by means of a contemplated redevelopment of this entire area in the not too distant future, and

WHEREAS St. Luke's must at all times continue to maintain, and to improve and expand its program of service and activities in and to the community by preaching and teaching Christ and by rendering those related and additional services which are required in the successful operation of our Church and for which ever increasing demands are being made upon us, and

WHEREAS the Church Council did at its May meeting adopt and approve an expansion of our program of activities in order to prepare for, and to endeavor to meet, the increasing demands now being, and expected to be, made upon us, and

WHEREAS it has been conclusively proven that our normal sources of income have not in the past years, and do not now, equal or approximate our normal operating expenses, and

WHEREAS in addition to the foregoing we are from time to time confronted with additional repair, replacement and maintenance expenses due to the physical deterioration of our Church property and its equipment, and

WHEREAS all of these have over the past several years resulted in annual deficits and in the ~~unavoidable~~ borrowing of funds from sources and monies which were never intended or given for this purpose, and

WHEREAS the constant knowledge and threat of an annual deficit is unwarranted and unrealistic in fact, and discouraging to those who are charged with the duty and responsibility of furthering the work of Christ through our Church, and

WHEREAS your Committee after careful and thoughtful deliberation and discussion has concluded that there is no immediate way in which the current and future income of our Congregation can be permanently increased or raised so as to meet present and future expenses, and

WHEREAS any effective plan or action designed to bring about an increase in the voluntary contributions or giving of the members of the Congregation will require careful study, analysis and preparation and extend over a period of from two to three years, and

WHEREAS the immediate present and foreseeable future financial needs of our Congregation require and demand that a part of our existing reserve funds be immediately made and kept available for the payment of present debts and deficits as well as for future deficits, your Committee therefore unanimously RESOLVES TO RECOMMEND TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

I.

(a) That an operating deficit reserve fund of \$25,000, taken from the General Reserve Fund by June 30, 1959, be made and kept available for the sole and express purpose of providing funds for any deficits, both present and future, between operating income and expenses;

(b) That any increment to this fund, whether it be income or principal, be added to and become a part thereof;

(c) That periodic withdrawals for both temporary and permanent deficit needs shall be made therefrom at such times and in such amounts as may be directed by resolution of the Church Council;

(d) That an annual written report setting forth the condition and status of this fund, as of December 31 of each year, be submitted to the Church Council at its April meeting, beginning with the year 1960.

II.

That the Church Council approve and authorize an extensive Every Member mailing program to be begun in the Fall of this year, designed to stress the need for regular and increased giving.

III.

That the Church Council approve and authorize an Every Member Visitation Program in which all of the Church Council members, with the exception of the Elders, will actively participate by calling upon the members and families of our Congregation. This visitation program, like the mailing program recommended in item "II", would have as one of its objects and purposes the bringing about of both regular and increased giving on the part of our members. With regard to this recommendation, your Committee points out that due to the personal contact and visitation features of this program, an estimated period of from two to three years will be required in order to thoroughly canvass the entire congregation.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee this 15th day of June, 1959.

Jean Baridon  
Joseph Miranda  
Robert Willner

Pastor Neibacher (ex officio)

Carl H. Sievers (Chairman)