

**St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting | January 31, 2021 at 12:30PM**

Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Youth Reps
Chris Bernard	Ivan Black	Stephanie Jones	Alex Burnett
Tripp Brunson	Sandy Dawkins	Craig McFarland	Jack Hayes
Ralph Haggard	Steve Fowler	Brian Paeth	
Brant Taylor	Paulette Shealy	Mike Brittingham	
Christy Wenzel	Mary Elizabeth Windham	Evelyn Temple	

Executive Committee:

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
Brant Taylor	Tripp Brunson	Stephanie Jones	Mary Keisler

Pastors: The Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle, The Rev. Jason Antley, The Rev. Dr. Dennis Bolton
 Staff: Shannon Burnett, Tonya Reynolds, Beth Haggard, Bailey Parker
 Absent: Ralph Haggard, Chris Bernard, Christy Wenzel, Beth Haggard, Stephanie Jones, Evelyn Temple, Jack Hayes

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 12:36 pm by Brant Taylor.

Devotion: Pastor Jason

Consent Agenda: December Minutes

Staff Reports

- a. Pastor Pat
- b. Pastor Jason
- c. Pastor Dennis
- d. Shannon-Family Life Report
- e. Beth-Preschool Director
- f. Mary-Financial Report

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Mike Brittingham to approve the consent agenda. Steve Fowler seconded the motion. The council members unanimously approved the consent agenda.

Discussion Agenda

• **Old Business**

1. Slate of Class of 2023: Three Year Term Nominees: Mike Burgess, Michael Jebaily, Brian Lackore, Jessica Maxheimer, Allison Van Cleef. Class of 2022: Two Year Term Nominee: Mike Brittingham. Youth Nominees: Abby Burnett, Carlee Tworzyanski. Mike Brittingham motioned to approve the nominees. Steve Fowler seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

• **New Business**

1. Pastor Jason presented the information on the three-year Capital Campaign with GSB. The campaign will cost \$36,500 and will be paid over the first 12 months. Tripp Brunson motioned to approve moving forward with the Capital Campaign. Steve Fowler seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
2. The Capital Campaign Co-Chairs will be Steve Fowler and Kerri Brittingham.

3. Continuing Resolution for the year 2021: On January 11, 2021 council approved by email to move the annual congregational meeting to February 14, 2021. Due to Covid issues and the death of Mary Keisler's mother, the meeting was postponed a week. The annual congregational meeting shall understand a quorum to be constituted by those physically present and those attending on the concurrent Zoom platform. Be it also resolved that nominations for church council positions shall be made in writing to the church office no later than Wednesday, February 10th. Steve Fowler motioned to approve the continuing resolution for 2021. Sandy Dawkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
4. 2021 Spending Plan: Mary Keisler reported that almost \$110,000.00 was given to SSLC the last week of 2020. So far for 2021, 65% of the general offering budget has been pledged and 85% of the building fund expenses have been pledged. Four council members did not pledge to the building fund and 2 council members did not pledge to the general fund. The total increase to the 2021 budget is \$19,212.42 which is a 2% increase over 2020. Finance Committee recommended to council to approve the 2021 Spending Plan. Steve Fowler seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
5. 2020 Overage: The 2020 overage is \$167,314.23, this includes the spending overage of \$39,448.65 and the payroll savings of \$127,865.58. The finance committee recommended doing the following:
 - 1) Renovate the social hall bathrooms \$25,000 (estimate \$22,325)
 - 2) Donate \$10,000 to a sister church possibly Cristo Rey
 - 3) \$75,000 towards the debt retirement
 - 4) Clean, Seal Cracks, and Paint Lines on the Butler Street parking lot \$21,700
 - 5) Washer and Dryer \$4,200 this includes the plumbing needed
 - 6) Back Parking Lot near the dumpster \$17,825
 - 7) LED Lighting \$8,163.07

Council add 8) All remaining money be put in Emergency Reserve.
Finance Committee recommended to council to approve the 2020 overage and council added all remaining money be put into the emergency reserve. Steve Fowler seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
6. Cemetery Committee recommended two plots be given to Pastor Pat and Jan Riddle. Ivan Black seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
7. Cemetery Committee recommended the grave marker presented by a member violates the constitution and should not be approved. Steve Fowler seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
8. Pastor Jason recommended that the church office add the current 2021 Federal Holidays to the list of days off for the staff. Steve Fowler made the motion to approve. Tripp Brunson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
9. Worship and Music recommended offering the organist/associate music director job to Tyler Meade. Sandy Dawkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: February 21, 2021 at 12:30 pm

Pastor Jason announced the SSLC council retreat will be Saturday, March 20, 2021

Ivan Black motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mike Brittingham seconded and council members unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer at 2:31PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tonya Reynolds on February 1, 2021

Amendment 1

On February 11, 2021 Pastor Jason sent out the following email:

Hey Folks, Hope this message finds you doing well! As you may have heard, we are soon to have a new next door neighbor in the old carpet one building. The new business will be an indoor/outdoor bar, beer garden, restaurant, and outdoor concert venue. As always, we in the church have a vested interest in a vibrant and successful downtown Lexington. We are excited about this new addition to the downtown business landscape, but simultaneously we have some very real concerns with how the church and the new business will need to coexist (ie parking, noise during worship times, etc.). To make sure that we are staying ahead of these matters a portion of our executive committee, staff, and Mr. Eddie Howard met this evening to further discussions about what conditions the church would need met to make this partnership most beneficial for both sides. During that meeting it was suggested and agreed upon that it would be in the church's best interest in this matter to go ahead and secure legal representation. This legal council would be secured for the sake of helping the church to best represent itself as well as to navigate the intricate details of this delicate matter. Just to be clear, we are not anticipating this being a matter that would turn into something litigious, but we would rather be proactive and make sure that we are fully prepared and organized to make sure that the neighborly relationship being established is one that takes the best interests of both parties into account. With that being said, we have been quoted a price of \$5,000 to secure this legal representation. This expenditure has to be approved by the church council before we can move forward. Therefore, we are asking for your approval to spend the \$5,000 necessary to acquire this legal aid. We thought that this was an issue that we could handle via email to be most efficient and effective with all of our time. If you feel that this topic needs to be discussed via zoom platform, then please let that be known. Again, we do not foresee having to make this a litigious matter. We are hopeful that another successful business in the downtown area only helps to continue to make our church stronger, but we also want to be best prepared to make sure that the church is well represented in the partnership negotiations. Thanks for your attention to this matter. Responses are requested by end of the day on Thursday. As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out via reply to this email, by phone/text at (803) 351-9317, or call the church office. Thanks again and hope y'all have a great end of the week and weekend!

On February 12, 2021 Pastor Jason sent out the following fallow up email:

Hey Folks, Just an update that the official vote was 11-2 in favor of hiring the attorney. Contact has already been made, a deposit has been paid, and the attorney has been secured to aid our efforts moving forward. Thank you for your quick attention to this matter!