

Council Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2025

Minutes taken by: Marie Ihlefeld

Meeting start time: 7:05 PM

Meeting end time: 8:49 PM

Attendees:

Council - Present	Absent	Pastors/Staff - Present
Anna Sion	Sue Eberle	Pr. Andrea Cain
Angela Nannenga	Adam Clark	Pr. Thadd Book
Carolyn Perkins		Doug Bjotvedt
Gail Dempsey		
Mari Johnson		
Vicki English		
Marie Ihlefeld		
Brent Borchers		
Tony Tainter		
Mark Farrell		

Devotions: Marie Ihlefeld

Approval of May Agenda:

- **First:** Gail Dempsey
- **Second:** Carolyn Perkins
- **Unanimously Approved**

Approval of April Minutes:

- **First:** Vicki English
- **Second:** Mari Johnson
- **Unanimously Approved**

Team Updates

1. Council Introductions: Anna All current and new members introduced themselves and mentioned how long they have been members of Desert Cross.

2. Director of Operations and Property Report: Doug Bjotvedt

- Doug provides a 6-page Financial Report every month. Every penny is tracked in and out. Attendance Reports are provided on page 2. April was \$5,976 positive (income over expenses) and YTD Desert Cross is \$4,871 positive (income over expenses). We are a nonprofit, so the goal is to run a balanced budget or income equals expenses by year end.. Adjustments are done regularly to remove Endowment money from the income/expenses on page 3. Assets on page 4 show that the General Fund is \$140,000 in the negative & total checking account value is \$85,706. There are a lot of restricted assets. The Renew project originally raised \$400,000 from 2017 – 2020 and there is now \$22,800 remaining. In 2000 an endowment of \$500,000 was created & is currently worth a little under \$600,000. The endowment funds grants, scholarships, and capital improvement. General Giving is up \$41,000 over last year and all giving is up \$61,000 over last year. Giving is inconsistent – in the hot months giving is down. The Parking lot project will consume cash and lower reserves.
- Tempe Water Station: City of Tempe is interested in buying some of our vacant land to expand the well and does have Eminent Domain on that property but wants to work with us. Doug was authorized by Council to counter Tempe's offer and is waiting to hear back. Tempe sent the offer to their contractors who develop and buy the land. Tempe is in no rush to buy and we can't do anything until/unless it is approved by the congregation at the December Congregational Budget meeting or by calling a special Congregational meeting before December. Desert Cross owns land around the bank. We own the south lane and some of the bank parking. The bank resurfaces some of our stalls and we resurface some of theirs.

3. Financial Committee Report: Brent Borchers

- Doug's numbers look good, he is showing we have \$41,000 more in General giving YTD than we did last year. This is better than 2024 or 2023. Parking lot project will lower cash. Some folks were told any extra money from the parking lot would be used for Gilbert Refresh which has not been presented to council yet or approved. This would have to be a council decision. The original parking lot bid was \$29,000 to

\$30,000 in 2024. The final numbers are not in, need to wait until June. If more than \$10,000 remains after the parking lot is complete, congregation would need to vote on how that money is appropriated. When the parking lot fundraiser was started, ideas for a refresh had already been presented in Gilbert. The Gilbert Parking lot is a designated (restricted) fund. Council approval is needed to move anything from a designated (restricted) fund to anything else. A crowdfunding form should state this information. As new members join the council, it is a good time to remind everyone of the rules around designated (restricted) funds. When doing a fundraiser, donors need to specify on the check or on the envelope where their check is going, or use the dropdown on on-line donations to specify the fundraiser. Verbal instructions do not work for donations. Mari and Tony will go through the crowd-funding procedure with Chamber. Any committee/special project needs to be brought to council to be voted on.

- **Financial Audit** --- While discussing an in-kind financial audit with Holy Trinity, the Finance Committee discovered that Holy Trinity does an internal audit with non-council and non-finance committee members of the congregation. The Finance committee agrees that this is what is required and common for a 1-million-dollar organization.
- A flyer is being prepped for the Golf Tournament & will be brought to council for approval. Proposing to use some of the funds raised for Gilbert Refresh.

Vote to Approve Financial Report:

- **First:** Angela Nannenga
- **Second:** Gail Dempsey
- **Unanimously Approved**

4. President's Report Anna Sion

- **Elections Meeting:** Had a great elections meeting – big thanks to Angela for leading the nominating committee.
- **I-Help:** Tuesday September 23rd is the council's I-help night.

5. Pastor Reports:

- **Pr. Andrea:** Thanks to everyone for being here. A warm welcome to our new council members and thank you to out-going members. Most important for leaders to be faithful and lead in faith. The Tempe summer worship schedule will be one blended service at 9:30 with traditional & contemporary elements & music. Snack and chat fellowship

takes place after service & will extend through the summer months. Council approved the Stewardship summer letter – it highlights the cool summer ministries, asks everyone to remember the church & offers thanks to all for giving. There are new members at both campuses, they are already signing up for Vacation Bible School and helping with service. Lots of visitors in Tempe – people are seeking, especially young people. We have enough interest for another new member class. After LSS funding cut, they gave a presentation seeking ways congregations can help. Thus, Desert Cross is hosting a family from Nigeria & their son helped usher at service. The Synod Assembly is June 12-13th in Las Vegas – they alternate locations between Las Vegas, Tucson and Phoenix. Pastor Andrea will be on vacation in California during the next council meeting.

- **Pr. Thadd:** The Faith Formation team is working on the 2025/2026 programming year. Looking at all the breaks in 8 different school districts. Have a good sketch for faith formation, service projects, Donut Day, Sundae Sunday, and Packing Relief Bags. Pastor Thadd is leading a class on the Book of Acts through May with dinner at 6pm and bible study to follow. Joni and Pastor Thadd are working on upgrades in Gilbert, including new mics and computers. They went with Apple products. An air filter was bad on a projector & a new part was ordered. A couple I-pads were ordered to lead worship in Tempe and Gilbert. 95 people participated in the Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing Event, the largest group since COVID hit. You must be 5 years old to participate & the new facility is closer to the church. Gilbert Town Fiddlers held a wonderful concert in Tempe & the church was full. There are 47 kids in the Gilbert Town Fiddlers between middle school and high school. They are a very talented group. Still getting the final amount that was raised from Doug. In two weeks, a baptism is planned in Gilbert for two siblings – ages 14 & 11. John Christiansen is doing an excellent job creating and distributing name tags & people are wearing them. Almost all the new members in the new member class already had name tags. There is a Memorial Day breakfast planned at the park, including a surprise birthday party for Lincoln Book. The address is: 19096 E. Swan Drive, Queen Creek, AZ 85142

6. Endowment: Anna Sion No Endowment update

7. Gilbert Chamber Report: Carolyn Perkins/Mari Johnson

- Signage Mock-Up was shared with Gilbert Chamber. Sign-orma provided the quote & mock-up. Includes the whole church name and symbol. The quote is \$14,000 with

lighting & \$12,000 without lighting. The Refresh Committee agreed it would be a good idea to roll it into the Refresh project.

- Need to change the communion process for our musicians. Can musicians please come up for communion with the communion helpers?
- Planning a ribbon cutting ceremony after the completion of the Gilbert parking lot, at a later date, when it is cooler. Thank you to Tim Collins for use of his drone to make the Fundraiser puzzle.
- Need to make an announcement that Desert Cross business cards are available in the back of the sanctuary – members may take them to hand out to friends, neighbors, family etc. Do we need new business cards with service times? Pr. Thadd will talk to Wendy about it.
- At the Steering Meeting Glen Stadler announced that he is looking for more families to help out with I-help.
- There is a wish to hear more contemporary music in Gilbert. There is a lot of older contemporary music that many people know. (Amazing Grace/My Chains are Broken – etc) Music is discussed with the Pastors and set up with Joni. There is a music suggestion box to make requests in the back of the sanctuary at Gilbert --- probably needs to be announced again.

8. Stewardship Pr. Thadd Planning for Fall, have developed an initial theme. More to come

9. Project Update and Fundraisers: Anna Sion/Brent Borchers

- **Gilbert Parking Lot Project:** May 30th through June 1st is the parking lot resurfacing, the lot will be fixed in pieces, weather could deter work, unlikely. Thank you, Brent, for all your hard work on this project.
- **Gilbert Refresh:** Will be discussed at a later date after the Refresh Presentation

10. Program (Staff) Reports/Questions: No questions

11. Old Business: Anna Sion

- **Budget Timeline:** The budget process was streamlined last year & started with early deadlines. Planning stewardship ministry moments starting October 5st & will continue every weekend until Commitment Weekend which is the final Weekend in October.
 - Similar Budget Timeline as last year:
 1. October 16th (Thursday): Executive Team Meeting

2. October 20th: Council meeting with input from Finance
3. November 1st: First Draft of budget from Doug
4. November 3rd: Special Council budget meeting
5. November 17th: Regular council meeting & approve budget
6. November 21st: Doug sends budget Proposal to Congregation
7. December 7th: Congregational Budget Meeting

Vote to Approve Budget Timeline:

- **First:** Vicki English
- **Second:** Carolyn Perkins
- **Unanimously Approved**

12. New Business Anna

- Vice President Vacancy: It's up to Council to find and appoint a VP. Quite a few names have respectfully declined. Executive Committee members cannot move up to the vice president position, but other council members may.
- If anyone contacts Chamber or Council members with concerns, requests or suggestions please share them with Council.
- Specials Projects ---- there are a lot of special projects coming up, can these go into the budget proposal & go to the congregation? Special projects should be presented to the council & if approved, then presented to the congregation for approval. Any project over \$10,000 must be presented to the congregation.

Prayer Concerns & Praises were shared.

Closing Prayer: Pr. Thadd

Adjournment:

- **First:** Brent Borchers
- **Second:** Mari Johnson
- **Unanimously Approved**