



September 16, 2025

Council Members Present: Rita Blomster, Chris Dawson, Linda Eytcheson, Andrew Ford, Jo Hoffmeier, Jerry Kilbert, Dan Maloney, Karen Olson, Joan Slabaugh

Directors Present: Pastor Jon Haug, Catherine Slabaugh, Kat Thorp

Guests Present: Lynne Gilbertson

1. **Call to order: 6:31 p.m., Andrew Ford**
2. **Opening Devotion: Lynn Gilbertson**
 - a. Offering plates: see our contributions to the Council as an offering to the Congregation
3. **Approval of Minutes from August Council Meeting**
 - a. Moved by Dan Maloney, seconded by Jo Hoffmeier, approved unanimously.*
4. **Reports and Presentations (no action)**
 - a. Call Committee, Chris Dawson
 - i. The Call Committee originally received a slate of 5 candidates from the Synod. One candidate withdrew almost immediately. The Call Committee conducted Zoom interviews with 4 candidates, and followed up with each of their references. Following discussion and discernment, the Call Committee conducted a second, more in-depth interview with 1 candidate. However, after discernment, no call was made.
 - ii. The Call Committee is in close communication with the Synod, who will provide the Call Committee with a second slate of candidates later this fall.
 - b. Direct Services Task Force, Jo Hoffmeier
 - i. Nothing to report to the Council yet.
 - c. Larger Lutheran Witness, Rita Blomster
 - i. Pr. Frank had been leading the St. John's committee but with his retirement, lay leadership will be needed.
 - ii. Meeting of the LLW coming up soon, will report to Council at October meeting.
 - d. Treasurer's Report, Kat Thorpe (for John Bailey)
 - i. Questions from council:
 1. expense for rekeying locks with departure of staff member who did not return keys.
 2. Facilities use revenue. Fee structure should be revisited.
 - e. Staff Reports
 - i. Youth and Family Ministries, Pastor Jon Haug
 1. As submitted.
 - ii. Administration, Kat Thorp

1. Allocation adjustments and building the budget
 - a. Will work with Directors and ministry leads
 - iii. Director of Communications, Catherine Slabaugh
 1. Discussion of proposal that SJLC institute a new property policy:
 - a. Unhoused guests are welcome in the Gathering Place during Respite hours.
 - b. Unhoused guests are welcome to line up for ministries 1 hour in advance.
 - c. Unhoused guests are not allowed to congregate outdoors during Respite hours—they must be inside or move along.
 - d. When Respite concludes, unhoused guests must pack up and move along.
 - e. Unhoused guests are not permitted to be on SJLC property (including grass area, in front of Gathering Place, sanctuary steps, Peace Pole, etc.) any other time of day.
 - f. As always, all are welcome at worship. As such, unhoused guests are invited to attend worship services or sit in the courtyard for coffee any time from 8 am to 12:30 pm on Sundays.
 2. Issues raised: security for our members and staff; legal liability of SJLC and its members and staff; does it make sense to eliminate coffee hour? The “Good Neighbor Policy” as currently written does not work and needs amendment
 3. At suggestion of Andrew Ford, Council agrees to table this discussion until next month’s meeting
 - f. Executive Committee, Andrew Ford
 - i. Per the Council’s delegation, the Executive Committee has reviewed and approved the acceptance of the counteroffer by the Kaway Cafe for the lease of 1725 L Street.
 - ii. Council ratification: see action item, below.
- 5. Action Item**
- a. Ratification of Executive Committee’s decision to accept Kaway Cafe’s counteroffer and to move forward with the lease of 1725 L Street
 - i. Moved by Jerry Kilbert; seconded by Jo Hoffmeier; approved unanimously.
- 6. Adjournment, 8:22 pm**

Respectfully submitted:
Chris Dawson, Secretary