Call to Order  President Troy Gessner called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Present:
Troy Gessner – President
Simon Bauer - Vice President
Bruce Johnson - Secretary
Deb Anderson
Emily Fischer
Cathy Wilhelm
LaNette Wise
Doug Miller
Susan Douma
Pastor Kris Anderson

Absent:
Jerry Nelson
Holly Palmersten
Loren Viere – Treasurer

Staff:  Eric Blake, Dr. Charles Echols

Acknowledgement of Christ’s Presence and the Stranger – two empty chairs

Devotion and Opening Prayer.  This Sunday’s second lesson reminds us of the faces and witnesses who are gathered at All Saints day, so Pastor Kristen reminisced about the connections she’s made…the many faces of the witnesses she has met during her time at Salem. This has been a great opportunity for her and she encouraged us to think about the cloud of witnesses in our lives right now. Who has God put in your life to witness to us and for us to be a witness to? Pastor Kristen is really looking forward to scrapbooking all the pictures of faces and witnesses who attend her farewell celebration. She then led us in prayer.

Approval of agenda
Emily Fischer moved, Lanette Wise seconded the agenda be approved. Motion passed without objection.

Approval of minutes of July 21, 2016
Deb Anderson moved, Simon Bauer seconded the approval of the minutes as submitted. Motion passed without objection.

Approval of Consent Agenda
Bruce Johnson moved, Simon seconded approval of the consent agenda. Motion passed without objection.

Reports
Pastor’s Report. Fare For All in September will include “the shoe bus” offering inexpensive shoes along with the food. It will be held on the 12th, not the 5th (Labor Day). This Sunday Emily Campbell will be reporting on her mission trip to Ecuador. Pastor Kris will also be holding a fundraiser for Steve Hansen who recently suffered an illness that kept him from working. She is scheduling adult forums for fall and noted the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation is this year. Synod is making big plans. Since this is her last meeting, Pastor Kris expressed her thanks to Salem and issued a challenge to remember caring for our older members. She noted all staff cuts have been in the area of caring ministry over the last 10 years and reminded the Council that the Boomers are getting old(er). Resources are dwindling for older folks and it will get worse. She suggested the challenge will need to be met by both a Pastor and lay people.

Dr. Charles Echols requested repairs to the organ be added to the Salem budget. He described the repairs and upgrades that would be needed for the 40 year-old organ and noted that repairs would get harder and harder to make and they will be costly. Dr. Echols requested the current Wicks-Hendrickson organ be
changed to a digital control system, rewiring with fiber optic cable and changes to the console. He also said
the organ pipes also need to be dusted and washed. It was noted that the $5500 that had been allocated at the
last Council meeting for organ repairs would not be enough for all repairs and upgrades. Council agreed the
organ was important to the quality and effectiveness of Salem’s worship and request Dr. Echols get an
estimate of all the repairs and upgrades needed.

**Interim Administrator’s Report.** Eric Blake informed the council that he had been meeting with Lisa
Miller and the company doing Salem’s bookkeeping to learn the nuances of the financial system. He expects
to be finished with his training soon. Eric is also working on filling the ministerial gap that could open up
between Pastor Kris’ last day and the installation of an Interim Pastor. He has been exploring options with
guidance from the Synod and outreach to local Pastors. He participated in a meeting with the Music Team
and also had a meeting to look into upgrading our WiFi. Eric checked with Jodi Burling about Rally Sunday
plans. He has offered part-time positions to folks that would help him out while he has taken on the
additional administrative duties and is waiting for a response. Eric also noted the “Gaga Ball ministry” in the
youth room has been a big success and the first Young Adults gathering will be held this Sunday

**Financial Report** July 2016 financial statements were reviewed. Revenue is similar to last year,
this month a bit higher due to five Sunday month. Personnel and property expenses are lower, therefore the
deficit is lower.

**Personnel Committee** (Emily Fischer, Troy Gesner, Bruce Johnson) has been meeting a regularly to
support the Interim Administrator position set up and Interim Pastor recruiting. More details about the
Interim Pastor will be discussed under Old Business.

**Stewardship Committee** (Holly Palmersten, Jerry Nelson, Deb Anderson) Jerry Nelson is OK and
recovering. Deb Anderson shared a Time and Talents survey to be provided in the bulletin during Rally
Sunday and for a few Sundays following.

**Property Committee** (Simon Bauer, Doug Miller) No update to share, but they will be meeting with
Earl in the next couple of weeks.

**Nominating Committee** (Cathy Wilhelm, Susan Douma) Bruce Johnson distributed information
about open seats on the Council and terms of existing Council members. There are currently 1-4 slots open
and could be as many as 5-8 slots open at the beginning of the next year. It was agreed that recruiting should
begin soon and not necessarily focus only on Council members. Salem needs volunteers on the Committees,
as well. Cathy and Susan plan on discussing next steps with other members of the Committee.

**Call Committee** (Connie Logeman/Jeremy Lehto). Bruce reported for the Committee Co-Chairs.
The Committee is waiting for candidates. They planned on a meeting on Aug. 19, but would not meet if no
candidates have been provided.

**Old Business**

**Interim Pastor** Susan moved and Emily seconded to go into closed session to discuss Interim
Pastor candidates. Motion passed without objection. Susan moved, Doug seconded the Council come out of
closed session. Motion passed without objection.

**Open Council Seat** Nominating Committee will begin the process of recruiting candidates right
away. Former Council members will be included for consideration.

**Congregation Survey Follow-Up** Bruce had no updates.

**New Business** There was no new business.

**Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

Bruce moved to adjourn the meeting. Deb second. Motion passed without objection. The meeting
adjourned at 8:55 PM and concluded with the Lord’s Prayer.