

# Council Highlights: September 17

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- The August financial report showed a negative cash flow (income - expense) of **\$2,778** for the month. For the fiscal year-to-date (November through August) the cash flow is a negative **\$2,211**.
- The Council at its July 26 meeting resolved “that Emmanuel’s lay council members will take the initiative to personally arrange ... face-to-face meetings between Pastor Hybl and disaffected members and, as appropriate, to serve as facilitators and mediators for candid discussion of issues and potential resolution and reconciliation.” All of these meetings (where members were agreeable) will have been concluded by the end of this week and the Council has scheduled a special Council meeting on September 24 to evaluate the situation of our congregation and consider the next step(s). It should be understood by all that these are very sensitive deliberations with far-reaching consequences. Though the council is proceeding with all deliberate haste to discern the course of action that best serves the Body of Christ here at Emmanuel, according to the provisions of our Constitution, it is essential that this work be conducted with privacy and confidentiality. Consequently, the patience of our members is requested as we attempt to discern Christ’s will for all of us. Your prayers for your Pastor, your Council, and your congregation are requested.
- An exciting opportunity has presented itself for our congregation to offer a unique form of evening worship in our community in the form of monthly *Taize* (and similar) services. *Taize* (pronounced ‘Tie-zay’) is a simple meditative worship format that originated in a youth-oriented religious community in France and has achieved international popularity for the way its simple serene chants unite the community and draw in worshippers. Examples of typical *Taize* chants can be found [here](#) and [here](#). The opportunity for Emmanuel is that we are blessed to learn that Gloria Christofano, our musically gifted church secretary, has the experience, the contacts, and the passion to help us establish such a service at Emmanuel. In addition to the rare availability of such talent, our sanctuary is also uniquely suited to offering this kind of intimate worship service. It is our hope that this service will be popular with worshippers from diverse backgrounds, as it has proven to be in other churches that are able to offer it.
- The council voted to allocate \$1,500 for funding monthly services of the *Taize* type (including community publicity) through June of 2020, to be funded by the Thrivent Choice Dollars that we have earmarked for special opportunities. The first of these services is planned for 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 23. Watch for further details, plan to attend, and invite your friends to experience the quiet depth and beauty of a *Taize* service at Emmanuel!
- It was noted that twelve outside organizations currently meet in our facilities including our sponsored Boy Scout Troop and Crew 208, six Girl Scout and Daisy troops, two AA groups, and two Al-Anon groups. These represent important ways in which Emmanuel supports our community.
- The Christian Education Committee reports that instead of Sunday morning Sunday School, an ELC Youth Bible School has been instituted on Monday nights and this has been well received.