



Council Minutes July 30th, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE:

*Pastor Paul Bulgerin	*Jodi Doro (Secretary)	Wendy Freeland (Fellowship)
*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen	*Lynda Lalley (Treasurer)	Sarah Brogni (Property)
*Mark Barber (President)	Rachel Langer (Outreach)	Lisa Bernd (Director of Involvement)
*James Newell (President Elect)	*Melissa Schmidt (Christian Care)	*Jen Jacobson (Christian Education)
Mike Moran (Past President)	Kelly Olson (Worship)	

(*) present at meeting

The meeting began at 7:07 P.M. with President Mark Barber presiding.

Opening Prayer Pastor Heidi

✓ Approval of the June 2020 minutes – Lynda motion to approve meeting minutes, second by James; all approved

New Business

Personnel Committee - members approval to allow them to meet. Start out looking at job descriptions to determine what everyone does. Pastor Paul will contact the group next week to get meeting set up mid/late August either online or in person.

Worship – continuing outdoors, many are keeping masks on even when it was indicated they don't need to. Some members that have talked with pastors are comfortable staying outside as long as weather permits. Pastors are creating a video this week talking about how we are proceeding – one item to include might be the potential steps needed if a positive case were to occur in the congregation. Final plan to stay outside as able and then make decisions when time comes.

Jen attended webinar for upcoming school year. Three members plan to do online education for right now. Some would like in person small classes. Education team is setting up meeting next week on how to move forward with Christian Education, as it helps to know what local schools are doing.

Confirmation – See Pastor Paul's report

Pastor Heidi will work on a Lament video/service to help everyone share their feelings.

Meg had knee surgery, went well.

Pastors and DI Reports

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Outdoors Worship: We have now had six outdoors Sunday worship services. So far, the weather has been very cooperative. Attendance has ranged from about 80-110 people. We continue to figure out how to make it a meaningful worship experience for those who attend and to video the services and make them available online to those who are not worshipping in person. Our plans are to continue the outdoors Sunday services through August and into September.

Looking to the Fall: At our meeting this week we will need to discuss our initial plans for the fall, once we cannot worship outside. We will have several options:

- Go back to online "Holy Experiment" worship only
- Plan for limited indoors worship services where we observe all the health and safety practices possible. We would also continue with online worship (videos of the indoors services) for those who chose not to come to in-person worship
- We could look at two services in the worship center on Sunday
- We could have one service in the worship center and another in the fellowship hall



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- We can look at starting Thursday evening worship again

I sent information to the council and our worship leaders after meeting with our local Grafton Clergy group last week. The other three churches represented at our meeting all have been holding indoors worship services this summer. As I said in my email to council, the issue of masks is the biggest one they have faced.

We will need to come up with our policies for resuming indoors worship services and then inform the congregation. With things in such a state of flux we will need to be flexible and make adjustments as needed.

2020 Giving: It has been gratifying to see the giving through the first six months of the year. While July and August tend to usually be months with low offerings, through the first half of the year our members have been very faithful in their giving.

Fall Stewardship: I have begun work on our fall stewardship program. I will be working with our stewardship planning team members who helped with last fall's program.

Sundays, October 11 and 18 will be the two stewardship Sundays. Members will begin to return their 2021 commitments on Reformation Sunday, October 25.

Confirmation: Erica Dimmett and I have been working to update and send out information to our confirmation families. Since we have smaller classes this year we are planning to have in-person confirmation instruction beginning in mid-September. We are going to offer some sort of video option for any families concerned about having their student attend in person.

“God’s Work Our Hands”: With the coronavirus we will have to change what we normally do for our congregational day of service which will be held on Sunday, September 13. This year we will have a much smaller event that will have mostly outdoors activities. We are looking at a river clean up (which we have not been able to do the past two years due to high water) and another activity or two. Instead of a meal served in the church we may invite volunteers to bring a picnic lunch which they can eat outside before we go to work. If the weather on September 13 is not good, we can reschedule for September 20.

The Outreach for Hope bike ride, which Grace has hosted the past two years, is not being held this year. People can do an individual ride and make a donation to Outreach for Hope.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: Thanks continue to all who are putting in extra effort for our outdoor services. John Bernd and Dustin Lobner continue to do video recording/posting and sound set up, respectively. We are hoping to get more people trained in this soon but haven't gotten any volunteers yet. We had a baptism this past week at the service, but most baptisms are individual for now. I have one private baptism at the beginning of August and one later in August.

Wedding: I will be officiating at the wedding of Brittany Hagermann and Dustin Lobner on August 8. It will be outside, socially distanced and a small group. Rain location is Grace, but the guests know that masks are required if we are inside.

Visitations: I did some visits this month, keeping my mask on. With Covid cases rising in our area, I'm not sure how long that will continue.

I am checking in with members through phone, text, email, and mail. I am thankful for the many ways we can connect- but I really miss everyone!

I will be dropping off communion for a member who can't be around people but does watch the online worship each week. This may be a good way to do things for our shut ins if we decide in person visits aren't a good idea.

Outreach: We have continued to help Grace members and community organizations in need.



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We are still getting gift cards donated- it is very uplifting to see how people are caring for others in this time.

I put together a Meal Train for a member of Lydia Circle who had surgery.

The baby registry for the owner of our cleaning service will be closed out soon. 28 items were purchased from there.

I took some donations to Family Promise. They said they were in need of diapers in bigger sizes, so I will put that request out to the congregation.

Covid and Kids: I attended a zoom led by a local psychologist on how to help kids during the pandemic. I wrote up my notes and added in some notes for us as people of faith to go along with what he shared. It was sent out to the Sunday School parents, but I may share it in some way with everyone in the future.

Looking Ahead: I've started a list of things we should do when things get back to normal (a blessing for those who have been baptized, married, buried, etc., thanking volunteers and supporters, and so on). If you have an idea you'd like included, let me know.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT: (Lisa Bernd)

Cleaning: A few weeks ago, I met with Erica about the custodian position. With Erica's help, we placed the custodian position on Indeed. We got many responses & were able to set up some interviews on August 12.

If we choose to hire a custodian, we need to let the cleaning company know we will be discontinuing by August 28. They would still provide our cleaning through September.

I would like the custodian to begin working September 8. That way he/she would have time to learn the building, catch up on all of the little projects that need to be done inside & outside, clean the sections of the building that haven't been done in a while & prepare the building to be used again when we are ready.

Ice Cream Truck: I booked the ice cream truck for after the service on August 9.

Counting: I have been counting the offerings every Monday & taking it to the bank. I also continue to process e-giving & PayPal donations.

Worship: I made a signup genius for people to sign up to usher on Sunday mornings. I do set up & clean up on Sunday mornings for the service. I assist Pastors Heidi & Paul with whatever they need to get ready that morning.

Building: I dumped water down all of the drains. I met Mark from Paul Crandall & Assoc to address some roof leaking issues in the worship center. They came to fix it but I will watch it to make sure it doesn't leak again.

We had a leak in the men's bathroom in the gathering area. I had it fixed on Tuesday.

The fan in the roof top air conditioning unit went out. They came on Wednesday to fix it.

Blood Drive: We will be hosting a blood drive on August 18.

Voting: Grace will be hosting voting for the Village of Grafton on Tuesday, August 11. They will be setting up on Monday, August 10 & cleaning up on Wednesday, August 12.

Annual Maintenance: Fire Detention group did our annual inspection. We have passed that. We did have an issue with our cell dialer & it needed to be replaced. Since we got our new one there have been no issues.

We also had Pure Mechanical in to do our bi-annual inspection.

Attendance Report

Attendance was discussed.

Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE: (Melissa Schmidt)



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No report provided

FELLOWSHIP: (Wendy Freeland)

No report provided

FINANCE: (Lynda Lalley)

Total Income for the month is **\$55,662.39** (should average \$52,463.08) puts us behind **\$4,716.28** for the year.

Expenses for the month were **\$51,254.60** (should average \$56,133.96) which put us under **\$4,879.36** for June.

We ended with **\$4,407.79** of income over expenses, that was transferred to the Contingency Funds to balance total receipts with total disbursements. Below is contingency breakdown YTD:

Things are looking good right now, which is great. Arcelia also submitted the PPP loan forgiveness paperwork, but as of yet, the bank doesn't know when they will start to be reviewed.

Discussion: MIF – interest rate will change this year and go up 3.875% to 4.375% add about \$540/month to mortgage. Reached out to Arcelia to check with her contact at Cornerstone to see if there is a better rate out there. But MIF would entertain matching if we would find a lower rate.

OUTREACH: (Rachel Langer)

No report provided

PROPERTY: (Sarah Brogni)

No report provided

WORSHIP: (Kelly Olson)

Worship Planning Team Meeting Notes -- July 14, 2020

Outdoor services

- 4 to date
 - 2 facing south to the parking lot
 - 2 facing north to the lawn in the shade
- Weather has been nice each week
- We began holding weekly outdoor services on June 28th
- Attendance has been between 80 and 110
 - People have been good about wearing masks and social distancing
 - Some people opt to stay in their cars or in chairs near the curb on 6th
 - A sizable group of members, both those who are older and those with children, or do not yet feel comfortable coming to worship
- Services are recorded and posted to the website. Links are sent via email each Sunday afternoon/evening for those who wish to watch/participate in the service online.

Initial Thoughts on Fall/Indoor Worship

After much discussion and consideration, the team felt that with still too many unknowns, and lack of definitive markers to gauge the safety of holding services inside, an informed decision on indoor worship cannot be made. The team recommended that we continue weekly outdoor services through September and possibly into October as long as weather allows.

Unless the situation and conditions improve to the point that we can make a decision that ensures the health and safety of our members, we will likely return to the recorded online service, either the Holy Experiment format we started with or a recording of an indoor service with only the Pastors, musicians and Katie Eippert.

We will continue to monitor state and local mandates and guidelines as well as recommendations of the WI Council of Churches, Siebert Foundation and reports from other area clergy and congregations.



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Need for Volunteers

There are still issues getting volunteers to serve as ushers for the outdoor services. The need has been announced in weekly Grace Notes emails and in announcements before worship. We also need volunteers to operate the video camera and assist with set up for outdoor services. Brett Mehre may be available to help. Vince will ask him. If there are others we should contact directly, let Kelly Olson or Lisa Bernd know.

Special Music for Worship

Eryn reported that some of the choir couples/families may be willing to do special music and Debbie said that she could create smaller handbell ensembles (for social distancing) for recorded fall services and/or when we are able to move forward with indoor worship. All special music is appreciated.

Baptisms

Pastor Heidi is scheduled to officiate two baptisms in July and August, one private at home and one in worship. Another family, interested in joining Grace, has talked to Pastor Heidi about baptism for their child.

Affirmation of Baptism

Pastor Paul asked families of our 9th graders about their preference of holding the Affirmation of Baptism service at an outdoor service or wait until we can hold it inside. Opinions were split. At this point, a decision is on hold.

Marriage Vow Renewal Service

A member couple who was recently married at small service on May 31 have asked to hold a vow renewal service with approx. 80 people, on September 5th. The couple has opted to hold their service outside on the church lawn, weather permitting. Pastor Paul is working with the couple on the details of the service and the health/safety issues involved.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 12th @ 6:30

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE: (Jen Jacobson)

No report provided – did not meet this month

Unofficially, the last week of Backyard VBS was sent out this week, when we put the supplies bags together I believe 95 of the 100 spoken for. I'm excited to talk to the group at our next meeting to hear the feedback, I know my girls have been enjoying it. At our meeting next week we will be focusing on plans for fall program. Tonight, Erica and I watched a webinar on Youth and family events, mostly focusing on virtual or at home, but did talk about some ideas for small in person as well. Overall, it offered a great reminder of the importance of relationship and building a quality one which can be done in person and apart during this time.

Pictures are being sent in and plan to create a slideshow from VBS.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Paul

Next Meeting: August 27th 7PM

Pastor Paul - personnel committee

Pastor Heidi – Lament video/walk through church

Jen – working to figure out Sunday School

Lynda – look into other options for Mortgage interest rate

Mark – document from sister on programs put in place