



Council Minutes January 25th, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE:

*Pastor Paul Bulgerin	*Alissa Burgos (Secretary)	*Peg Lade (Worship)
*Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen	*Ed Eckert (Treasurer)	*Laurie Gosselin (Fellowship)
*Kerry Feutz (President)	Pat Murack (Christian Education)	Lisa Bernd (Director of Involvement)
*Darlyne Holle (Past President)	Kelly Klug (Outreach)	*Sarah Brogni (Property)
*Mike McGraw (President Elect)	Open (Christian Care)	

(*) present at meeting

The meeting began at 7:20 P.M. with President Kerry Feutz presiding.

Reflection led by Kerry Feutz

- ✓ Approval of meeting agenda
- ✓ Approval of the December 2017 minutes

Pastors and DI Reports

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Annual Meeting: I apologize that I will not be at the annual meeting on January 28. I scheduled the ninth-grade confirmation retreat that weekend, not realizing it was the weekend of the annual meeting and, by the time I did realize it, it was too late to change the retreat date.

Church Contingency Fund: The council executive and full council have discussed this proposal. A letter about this, including a Q&A handout, was mailed to the congregation earlier this month. This proposal was discussed, at length, with members at the January 14 adult forum. There seems to be a lot of support for this move. The one caution was that we did not specifically mention this possibility during the capital fund appeal. The reason for this is that it was not brought up by either Jeff Newlin, or anyone from Grace during that time. Jeff did discuss it with me last year when we were doing a follow-up on our capital fund appeal and how best to handle our much larger mortgage.

Please encourage support for this proposal with other Grace members before the annual meeting.

Nicaragua Mission Trip: Our group of ten is going to be gone from February 9-18. We will be staying with Meg Boren and working with her in the community. We are taking books, clothing and medical supplies with us. I am using this trip as my continuing education experience for the year.

We will follow up the trip with a presentation to the congregation and, later this year, with a special appeal to raise funds for a specific project in Nicaragua to be decided upon by the Circle of Empowerment.

Habitat For Humanity: At the January 14 adult forum on the annual meeting I discussed my desire for Grace members to participate in the Grafton Habitat For Humanity build, which it is hoped will take place this year. The site is behind Sendik's.

Habitat is looking for sponsor congregations who will each give \$5,000 to help as seed money for financing the build. These congregations will also supply volunteer workers on a number of days during the build as well as food to feed volunteer crews.

Grace has allocated \$2,000 toward this from our Endowment Fund. I would like us to have a special appeal, around Easter, to see if we can raise the remaining \$3,000 so we can be fully committed to this project.

I will have information on this to be shared at the January 28 annual meeting.



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Future Adult Mission Trips: At the January 14 adult forum, I also shared my goal for Grace to become a congregation that has regular adult mission trips. One of my goals during my sabbatical this summer is to take the Thrivent Financial “Thrivent Builds” training that is run with Habitat For Humanity. This would qualify me to lead mission trips sponsored by Thrivent and Habitat. Others can take the weekend training in the future so we have a group of trained leaders for future adult mission trips.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: The special service on Thursday, December 21, “Lost in the Night”, was well received.

I put together a special worship for the Sunday after Christmas of readings and hymns.

Thanks to Lisa Bernd for her help in organizing Bishop Paul Erickson’s visit on January 21. It was great to hear him share the gospel and talk about what’s happening in the synod during Adult Forum.

I have worked up Wednesday Lent themes based on a Sundays and Seasons theme, “Making Change.” We will be encouraging people to save their change for a noisy offering to benefit Habitat for Humanity and one other organization (probably hunger-focused).

Christmas Sing-a-long: We had a great turnout! I think we had over 60 people there.

Advertising: I spoke with Lindsay Nielsen and Valerie Buchman who have offered to help us with marketing/advertising. We will be meeting after Lent is over to discuss ideas.

Staff Building: I met with the staff support group (Melissa Schmidt and Valerie Buchman) to discuss ideas for staff building activities and exercises. This was done when I came on staff and I think it’s time to do it again with our new (though now not so new) staff. Melissa and Valerie are going to come up with a few ideas based on our discussion and we hope to get something set up for April or May.

Visitations: I offered to do more of the monthly shut-in visits so I will be doing that going forward.

Paul’s Sabbatical: I am working on finding supply preachers for a few Sundays when Pastor Paul is on sabbatical, and coverage for a week when my family is hoping to take a vacation.

Thank You: Thank you to outgoing members Darlyne Holle and Laurie Gosselin. I truly appreciate your leadership, support, and service over the past three years.

DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT: (Lisa Bernd)

Sign Up Genius: Two weeks ago, we launched our new responsibility sign up – Sign Up Genius. It has been going quite well with many of the responsibilities already filled up. Katie Eippert had the computers in the gathering area to help people with signing up. The signup is from February – May. If people like it & we feel that it went well, we will do it again for the summer months. I did include in the email that I would assign people to the spots that were not filled in. Katie & I have gotten many positive comments.

Annual Report: I compiled all the data & put together the Annual Report.

Annual Meeting: I will have all the ballots ready for the annual meeting.

Time & Talents: Are still trickling in.

Southport Heating & Cooling: Mike McGraw & I have been meeting with Southport to get our building working correctly. After our second meeting earlier this month, we believe that everything is correct & our issues should be done or at least kept to a minimum.



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Water Inspection: We had our internal water distribution inspection on January 8. We have one violation that we need to correct. In our boiler room, there is a backflow prevention device that needs to be inspected by a plumber annually & it was not done. I will be getting that inspected right away.

Mailing: I sent out a mailing for Pastor Paul at the beginning of the month.

Coffee Maker: What would we like done with the old coffee maker? It is taking up a lot of space. Would someone please list it & get rid of it for us.

Regular Things: I also continue doing the weekly inset, Grace Notes, the Good News, responsibility emails, entering contributions, e-giving & the million things that come up daily.

Attendance Report

Year to date and monthly attendance numbers were discussed.

Open Issues

- New after reviewing the constitution...
 - Nominating Committee – 6 members (2 outgoing council members) No re-elections. Elected by Congregation at Annual Meeting.
 - These will be determined at the annual meeting.
 - Audit Committee – 3 members (no council members) – Elected by Council.
 - Motion to elect Bob Krevis, Bob Dries, and a third person be included on the audit committee for 2018.
 - Motion was seconded and approved.
 - New Members (C.8.03 Applications for new members shall be submitted to and shall require approval of the council).
 - Paul Unger
 - Ann Wolframm
 - Sandra Hickey
 - Andy & Anna Siebert (Kellen & Claire)
 - Jack & Erica Delchambre
 - Dave & Amanda Eichen (Kayla & Sam)
 - Council officially welcomed our new members.
- Staff Support – Need 2 new members.
 - Melissa Schmitt agreed to be on council, so can no longer be on staff support.
 - Council needs to look for a new person to fill Melissa's spot and an additional member is possible too.
 - Will ask staff for recommendations.
- Personnel Committee –
 - Need 3 new members.
 - We are looking for people who would like to be on this committee.
 - Will put in Grace Notes
- VPT needs three new members.
 - No further discussion was had on this topic.

Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE: (Vacant Spot)

No Report

FELLOWSHIP: (Laurie Gosselin)



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Currently planning the groups for Lenten Meals. The last of Lent remains available. If anyone knows a group that would want it, please let me know.

- 7th grade
- Outreach
- Lydia
- Family promise
- Bells
- Council will fill the last one on Wed Mar 21st – Pasta Bake

FINANCE: (Ed Eckert)

- Staff Pay Rate Worksheet with Effective Date
 - Worksheet is done. Letters will go to staff with their new pay after the vote at the annual meeting.
- Discussed the possibility of having a Contingency for Budget Assistance Schedule.
 - Discussion was had on what would be the best approach to present this at the annual meeting.
 - Differing opinions on whether there should be a set plan.
 - First, we ask them to rename the fund to a contingency fund. Second, we present the budget.

OUTREACH: (Kelly Klug)

Outreach will be hosting Lenten Meal on February 21st and All People's church is scheduled to attend this year. I just need to know when we will need to have the sign-up sheet up posted for the congregation for the milk and desserts. We will do sloppy joes again as this seemed to go over well. Lisa, can I get a list of who has signed up to help Outreach as I will do a sign-up list again for them. If anyone is willing to sign up for any of the items to bring I will have the list at the end and just let me know what you would like to bring so I can add you to the sign-up list as I did last year. Thank you to all who did sign up last year and are willing to sign up again for this year.

Number needed-item needed

- 5-5# Sloppy Joe Meat
- 4-2# grapes
- 3-2# oranges/cuties
- 5-2 Large/Family size chips
- 4-5packs of 8 buns
- 3 jars of pickles

I'm working on St Ben's for serving meals.

PROPERTY: (Sarah Brogni)

I don't have anything to report for Property. I'm looking forward to officially being elected into the role.

Lisa and I are sitting down soon to work on responsibilities for each of our roles. I'm also hoping to have a clearer understanding of what is expected in this role.

WORSHIP: (Peg Lade)

The WPT met on January 2, 2018.

- Four members were present.
- Pastor Paul provided an opening devotion.
- We talked briefly about the Advent and Christmas services to determine if there were any issues or problems to note so they could be corrected before next year. Pastor Heidi had provided a list this year for last year's services and that was helpful in correcting several issues. This year we felt all went smoothly and there was no need for a new list.
- I conveyed to the group the compliments received from the council on the Jubilation choir/seasonal choir's performance of the cantata.



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- The efforts to recruit a new team member have not been successful to date. I will put that on the February agenda for discussion by the team to see if we can come up with a new strategy or new list of possible members to approach.
- Eryn was scheduled to be out of town for the Bishop's visit on January 21st. Vince agreed to bring the Praise Team to the 8:00am service. Thank you, Vince!

Our next meeting is February 6th at 6:30pm

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE: (Pat Murack)

No Report

Other Business

Closing Prayer: Pastor Heidi