



Council Minutes June 22nd, 2017

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)	
*Mike McGraw (President Elect)	Valerie Salzman (Christian Care)	

The meeting began at 7:25 P.M. with President Kerry Feutz presiding.

Reflection led by Kelly Klug

✓ Approval of the May 2017 minutes

Pastors and DI Reports

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Situation with Tom Wellnitz: As I reported to the council in my email of June 1, Grace has been granted a four-year restraining order against Tom Wellnitz. Tom did not contest the order, nor did he dispute any of the facts listed in it. Since June 1 things have been quiet. Tom is abiding by the restraining order and continues with his out-patient treatment.

Stewardship For All Seasons (SAS) Program: I am having a phone meeting with Pastor Mike Ward, the consultant for the SAS pilot project, this week to discuss our giving statistics for the first three months of 2017. Pastor Ward had us compile a detailed listing of our offerings for the first three months to help assess our giving for the rest of 2017.

We will begin work on our fall stewardship program in August. My main goals for 2017 will be to increase our benevolence giving for 2018.

We did not budget for the extra costs involved with the SAS program for 2017. These come to about \$1,600. Last year I solicited some donations from members to help with this and will most likely do this again this year.

I was very happy with the guidance Pastor Ward and the SAS program offered us last year for our fall stewardship program.

Second Special Stewardship Appeal: The second appeal, which is part of the SAS program, will deal with raising funds to help us do a better job promoting the church and our work in the community. The goal will be to raise \$1,500 to \$2,000. Pastor Heidi and Pat Murack have made several good suggestions on how this money could be used. An appeal letter will be mailed to the congregation later next week about this.

Worshipping at All Peoples: After talking with Pastor Steve Jerbi, we have made tentative plans for the people of Grace to worship at All Peoples on Sunday, August 27. We last worshiped at All Peoples in August 2015.

Ninth Grade Confirmation: I am going to make some changes to our ninth-grade program for 2017-2018. The main one is that I plan to meet with the class two times per month and not just once. I think that this will help keep the class closer together as a group and will enable us to explore more faith topics in a group setting. A number of students in the class asked me if we could meet more than once a month.

Boundary Waters: I will be on the high school trip from July 19-26. Twenty-four youth and adults are participating in this year's trip. Thanks to the "Youth Matter" appeal, we were able to reduce the cost of each participant by \$75. We also have vehicles donated for the trip, so we will not need to rent a van. This is a savings of \$1,400. We can use this money for a van rental, if needed, for the 2018 mission trip.



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2018 Sabbatical Planning: I have started working on my plans for my sabbatical next summer. It will begin with me leading a biblical pilgrimage trip in June 2018. This will be an "In the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul" trip to Greece, Turkey, New Testament sites in the Mediterranean Sea area and Italy.

My main goal on sabbatical will be working to see if I can get the plays I have written over the years published. I plan to revise them and contact publishing houses to see if there is an interest in them.

Additional discussion during the meeting:

Beth Walch requested Grace make a donation to Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy (FRLC). Beth is on the steering committee for a conference hosted by this organization which will be held in April. This organization has nearly 30 years of history supporting clergy in all types of addictions. Beth is asking for a monetary donation to help with the publicity of this conference.

- ✓ A motion was made to approve giving \$500 minimum to FLRC to show Council's support of Beth as she graduates Seminary and started her Ministry.
 - The motion was seconded and passed with 8 approval votes.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: Thanks to all who got treats for the Ascension Day Service. I heard a lot of good feedback on the Favorite Hymns Service. If you ever have feedback (constructive feedback also!) please share it with me. It will help me serve Grace better.

We need to be thinking about how we are going to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in Worship (October 29). I don't feel like I have the time to add this on right now with my current schedule. Who are other people or groups that could take this on? I could share some ideas or be a reference, but I can't take it all on myself.

Fall Book Group: I'm looking at Wednesday, September 20, 27 & October 4 for a study on Marcus Borg's "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time."

TNT: We sent out a message with some summer plans. Several people said they couldn't come to our summer BBQ. Our email is down today and I can't send out a reminder about signing up for the sandwich prep for All People's. There is no sign-up sheet on the bulletin board yet- is there a time set for the meal prep?

Pastoral Leadership Summit: I attended the second of the 8 summits for my Pastoral Leadership in a Cultural Context program I'm doing through Marquette University from June 12-14. We visited neighborhoods and social agencies throughout Milwaukee, and heard from some great speakers (Bob Connelly of Common Ground, Chris Abele- Milwaukee County Executive, Pastor Joe Ellwanger who is an ELCA pastor who served in Selma during the 60s).

Synod Assembly: This year synod assembly went very smoothly with few issues. Thanks to our delegates who gave their time to attend (Lisa Bernd, Mike McGraw, and Jeff Witt).

Confirmation Camp: I'm at camp for this month's council meeting. Please keep our 7th graders and the camp staff in your prayers.

Summer Hours: In the next few months, I would like to discuss a change to my work hours in the summer for next year. It is too hard for me to get things done in two days with all that I have on my plate each summer. I have worked well over my hours each week since Memorial Day, and it is hard to imagine much change as the summer progresses. Either we need to add more days for me or take some things away. This will be even tougher next summer with Pastor Paul on sabbatical.



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DIRECTOR OF INVOLVEMENT:

Door Signs: The door signs have been chosen & they are ordered. I am not sure when they will be done but I am excited to see them. They will be a fantastic addition to our new building.

Mugs: The coffee mugs are out!! I put the coffee mugs out for coffee hour on Sunday. I have a cart with clean mugs & a cart for dirty mugs. Thank you, Christian Care, for their work on getting these beautiful mugs.

Property: The trees have all been removed. I am waiting for Diggers Hotline to come & mark the area so that the stumps can be removed. I have the company scheduled to do the removal once DH is finished.

All our annual inspections have been completed.

Eight families/people signed up to be on the weeding & watering weekly schedule. I am so thankful to all the people that volunteered. Also, an extra thank you to Larry Scheibach for all his work making our property beautiful, Jim Scott for all of the work he does inside our building & to Adan Burgos for his help laying the additional mulch.

I will be learning to install the coffee machine filter on Thursday.

Synod Assembly: I had the privilege of attending the synod assembly earlier this month. I always enjoy going & learning what other churches in the synod are up too. This time during our breakout session I learned a few things that I wanted to pass on.

Changing the word committee to TEAM. Most churches have made this change because the word committee is old & usually people associate committee with work. The word team is a community word. It is a group of people working together & having fun. We would now have a property team, fellowship team, worship planning team, etc.

A few of the churches do an Intentional Partnership group. It is a 6 month program that involves joining people/families together that may not know each other well into groups. The point of this program being that volunteering stems from relationships. I am always looking for new ways to get people involved & this sounded like a fun way to do that. I will explain the program during our council meeting. Katie Eippert & I will be working on this for the fall.

Church Council Thank You notes. Some of the churches in my group had their last item on the church council agenda as thank you notes. They write thank you notes to members or groups who have gone the extra mile or made a donation or anything they feel needs a special thanks. I was thinking that would be nice for our church council to start doing. We can also talk about this at our meeting.

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

Council monitors the attendance report monthly. Attendance was up in May.

Open Issues

- Personnel Committee Update:
 - a. No updates were reported. Committee has not met.
- Synod Assembly – Resolutions
 - a. Sanctuary congregation or Sanctuary supporting congregation.
 - b. Recognition of 50th Anniversary of the Open Housing Marches & Call to Continued Action.



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- Emergency Plan – Review for August meeting discussion.
 - a. Kerri created a plan and gave it to Staff. This included plans for: Tornados, Active Shooter, Fire, and Gas Leak.
 - b. Grace will need to create a map of the building with routes for each plan. Once these maps are generated, they will be reviewed by law enforcement. Council will then vote to approve the plans/maps and maps will be framed and placed around the building.
- Property Committee Chair
 - ✓ A motion was made to approve Sarah Brogni to finish the last 7 months of the Property Chair person term.
 - i. The motion was seconded and passed with 8 approval votes.

Committee Reports

CHRISTIAN CARE:

Working on photo directory. Make sure you all sign up for your photo times!

FELLOWSHIP:

- Martin Luther event will be held on Reformation Sunday.
- Picnic is June 25th and we are hoping for good attendance.
- We will be hosting the snacks on VBS Sunday
- Coffee donation jar will be set up.

FINANCE:

The financial condition continues to be about the same. Income is about \$22,000 short of our budgeted amount. Our expenses for the month were again higher than anticipated due in large part to the following:

- a. We continue to pay 'double' Phone/Internet bills – no change - we continue to pay the Earthlink costs of \$458.58 each month along with the new costs to Microsoft (licensing/skype costs) and Time Warner. So we have paid \$3,452.62 in phone/internet this year, already surpassing our full-year budget of \$3,340.00.
- b. Our fire detection and monitoring system and Heating/cooling systems are proving to be expensive. We paid \$870.00 to Southport Heating/Cooling and \$412.73 to the Accurate Recharge service (fire extinguisher check/renew) in May, which accounted for a total of \$1,282.73 against the Grounds and Maintenance Budget in May.

Summarizing – we continue to fall further behind – some due to high expenses, but more due to income lower than needed. Now that the 'Grow In Grace' campaign has ended, I am very interested to see what happens over the next several months – whether income toward the ongoing side increases, or people just stop giving there and don't make increases on the budget side. I think this is something that the Pastors might continue to mention.

Keeping an eye on the Building Fund – we had additional contributions of \$12,655.00 to the fund in April, bringing our net balance up to \$165,235.00.

I know that we are looking at using the Building Fund to help offset shortfalls during this first year, but I think we need to let the congregation know where we are financially so that this does not come as a surprise.

OUTREACH:

On June 28th we will be putting together 65 lunches for All Peoples church.



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WORSHIP:

There is no official report from the Worship Planning Team this month. We met on June 6th, although 4 of our members could not be there. We reviewed the pastors' service plans for the upcoming month. Our next meeting is on August 1st.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE:

May 22nd 6:30pm

Sunday School

- Singing/Playing bells in church went very well.
- A HUGE Thank You to all of the teachers and volunteers. We have an amazing group of people who help lead Sunday School and we are thankful for all of them.
- All-Family event went well. Attendance was a little low due to Mother's Day. Next year the last day of Sunday School will not be on Mother's Day so hopefully this will help.
- Briefly discussed staffing needs - Music and 5K teachers

KFC

Thank you to Mari and Cindy for a great year leading KFC. They will be stepping down from their roles. Erica stated that KFC is in her job description so she will be leading it. We are looking for 1-2 other people to help her out with that. KFC next year will be 3rd through 5th graders instead of just 4th and 5th graders

JYG

Thank you to Kelsey, Jessica and Pastor Paul for a great year. We are going to reschedule Famine for the Fall

HYPE

- Discussed Summer Trips for High School. This year is Boundary Waters. Next year is a mission trip. We decided not to go to Sky Ranch but instead to a trip to Appalachia. Erica is looking at Praying Pelican or Youth Works
- Discussed rotating every 3 years between Boundary Waters, Mission Trip, and Youth Gathering (either National or Regional) - we will discuss more in the future and ask for student's input.

VBS

We have 35 kids signed up and things are going well on track.

Parent Fellowship Hour

Taking the summer off - will resume in Fall

Church Picnic

We will have Kickball, GagaBall, Parachute, Bag Toss and Bowling at the picnic along with a few other games Fellowship is planning.

New Business

Erica recently went to a talk about Millennials and how to engage them. We discussed briefly that this will be a key segment over the next few years as students graduate from college and move back in with their parents. We will review the notes and discuss more next week about what can be done to reach this age group.

June 15th at 7pm

Old Business

- Erica ways to target emerging adults - Based on book called FULLER - Erica was at a conference led by the author. If anyone is interested more please contact Erica
- Unlock Keychain Leadership - Empower others over centralizing authority
- Empathize with today's young people - Do not judge or criticize; step into shoes of this generation – Not typical marriage, house, kids plan



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- Take Jesus' Message Seriously - Less motivated by shame and fear; more by grace
- Prioritize Youth People Everywhere - Prioritize families; young people load bearing role Be the Best Neighbors

Sunday School

New Curriculum for 3K to 5th grade was purchased on sale for \$175 for the whole year.

HYPE

- Summer activities - Had 4 people at the June Sunday School meeting. Next Activity is Ruby's Pantry
- Mission Trip - Praying Pelican vs. Youth Works. While discussed options and locations- VBS type activities, painting and yard work, construction projects, food pantry/clothing distribution and prices.
- We are strongly considering a Youth Works Trip to Quad Cities Iowa to work with local kids programs, engaging with adults who have disabilities, and serving the homeless through food pantries and thrift stores. The cost of the trip is \$299 plus transportation costs. We just need to check on a few things before we make it final.

VBS

- Have 55 volunteers and 67 kids signed up
- We will have a work night again to get the church set up for VBS on Thursday July 20th from 6-8pm
- Thank you to everyone that picked up a donation request in the gathering area.

Parent Fellowship Hour

On hold for summer

Special Programs

- Church Picnic - Planned games by YFMC - Kickball, little kid games, Gaga Ball
- Splash with Jesus - Sunday July 30th - Service in the park next to the pool at 9am with the pool party 9:30 to 11:30am. Normal worship service will be at Grace at 9am.
- Noah's Ark - August 12th

Other Business

Next Meeting – Thursday August 24th, 2017 – Reflection – Kerry Feutz
(No July Meeting)

Closing Prayer