

Council Minutes

September 19, 2022, 6:00 pm

Attending: David Weisser, Deborah Dreher, Bruce Arndtson, Abby Mattimiro, Pastor Geier, Julie Sieben, Lois Wroge, Becky Kaphing, Lorelei Rein, Lois Twedt

Call to Order at 6 p.m. by President David Weisser

New Business

Julie Sieben, Lois Wroge, Becky Kaphing and Lorelei Rein attended to share an update on the Preschool Program. Julie Sieben reported that there was great concern about the financial status in June of this year. Enrollments increased over the summer and financial concerns were alleviated.

Secretary Lois Twedt

Deborah made a motion to accept the August minutes and Bruce seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Deborah Dreher

Council Action Required

St. Philip's Lutheran Church continues to be in good financial position. Review of August 2022 Financial Reports indicate 2022 year-to-date Giving in three categories, General, Capital and Misc. lagging Budget by 2%. Expenses are under Budget by 8.6%. Net Cash is \$40,534.04, primarily due to open staff positions.

Motion was made by Bruce and seconded by Abby to accept the August Financial Statement. Motion passed.

Our Property/Casualty and Work Comp policies will end on September 18, 2022. Our current carrier, Farmers Insurance, is no longer insuring non-profit commercial properties, therefore, we have a new carrier: GuideOne Insurance Company. The coverage limits and deductibles are the same, and in addition, the premium costs for both policies are comparable. Katy Lindberg will remain our agent for these policies. The Finance Team is recommending Council approve the new policies. Bruce made a motion in favor of accepting the new policy with GuideOne. Abby seconded the motion. The council approved accepting the new policy.

Discussion pursued regarding the 2023 Budget process. During the week of September 19, 2022, Christine Rydel will send Budgets with Financial information to Ministry Team Leaders and Staff involved with budget preparation. Completed Budgets are due to Christine by October 20, 2022.

Vice President Sadie Reiners

No Council Action Required

The following is from the Building and Ground Committee:

· Following council's direction, the Tree House, Gertens, and Sergeant Nursery were contacted regarding the removal and replacement of ten trees. All declined. Their services do not include tree removal. The B&G team met with Precision again to review their proposal. In a unanimous vote by the team, Precision was told to proceed with the job. They have begun trimming the trees.

· The opportunity for congregation members to gift a tree to the project was a success. We have commitments for all ten trees. Letters were sent to the donors asking permission to publish their name and to identify any person they would like honored through their donation. That list will be in the October newsletter.

· Binder will do its routine inspection of all furnaces and AC units on Monday September 12. Steve Wolverton will attend that call to ensure that all furnaces get their attention.

Steve Wolverton repaired the timer on the parking lot lights.

· Becky Kaphing was asked to inform the folding door vendor in the Fellowship Room that a maintenance call on the eleven channeled doors will be postponed until 2023.

Serving Ministry Report--Pam Hoffman

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry

We're looking forward to something new to usher in the holiday season at St. Philip's this year, and it's called Philadazzle! On the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, from 6-8 p.m., we will have a time of adult fellowship, friends, food and fun! We're still in the planning stages but watch the bulletins and announcements for sign up as details develop.

We will have a couple of pans of bars (or cookies) for the Community Outreach and Social Justice Meeting on 10/13. David, Marjorie and Cindy are leading this meeting.

We will be sending out cards to our military members for Veteran's Day.

A motion was made by Deborah and seconded by Bruce to continue our participation in the Community Halloween Activity on Second Street to be held Sunday, October 30, from 2-5 p.m. The motion carried.

Stewardship

Stewardship will be meeting on 9/13 to lay out details of the fall stewardship campaign. The theme is "Embody our Mission". Commitment Sunday will be 12/4 with a pancake breakfast being served.

HR Report-- Cindy Toppin

No Council Action Required

After seeking input from families and Faith Formation, the HR Ministry Team and Pastor Geier developed two part time job descriptions for the Children's and Youth/Young Adult Ministry positions. Deborah has begun the advertising for these positions by posting on multiple sites.

HR Coordinator met with President Weisser and Pastor Geier to discuss first steps in developing a sabbatical opportunity. Discussion will continue at the September Council meeting.

HR actively recruited a member for membership on the HR Ministry Team. At this time, the member is interested!

Worship Ministry Report-- Marjorie Peterson

No Council Action Required

Service de-brief: The Praise Worship Service held on September 4, received positive comments. We are requesting lectors to do a quick mic check prior to the service. The communion cart should be moved in place during the peace greeting. Some of the communion kits have been difficult to open. The next time an order is placed, a different style of kit will be considered.

Music:

The Adult Bell Choir will perform on September 25, October 30, and November 27. LuAnn will place bells and chimes out for children and others to try on Rally Day. No youth have volunteered thus far. There are no candidates for the Choir director position, but advertising continues. A suggestion was made to bill this position as a possible internship at church colleges which would require supervision. Becky has offered to organize small performance groups.

Learning Ministries Report --Abby Mattimiro

Adult Study Group:

Old: Lisa still set to do Women in the Church for 3 Sundays. If she is unable due to family commitments and if slides are done, Jennie will cover.

Still considering offering Financial Peace University with Sam Willis in early 2023. It would not be during the Sunday morning Forum time due to time constraints and registration costs meaning that people would need to commit to the whole series. Doug to contact Sam again soon to see when the timing will work out for him.

The Greek Words for Love: Jennie says not as much material as she thought, not worth more than one or two sessions. Will put on hold as a fill in for now. New Possibilities: Book from Kathy Luedtke on Diversity. Pastor and Jennie will be looking at copies and see what they think. Perhaps it could be used for Lenten Book Study in 2023?

Wired Word: \$10/mo. or \$90/yr. subscription that provides two studies each week based on current news items with Biblical passages to discuss. Presenter chooses one of the two, lesson plan is pre-prepared but modifiable, supposedly takes only 1 hour to prepare. Interesting, and both Jennie and Doug think worth at least a month's try. Doug thinking perhaps best to wait until after the election if the Entering the Word looks like we could do that in October and early November.

Entering the Word: Proverbs – a free study just offered by Luther Seminary. Jennie and Doug are in the process of downloading it but haven't seen it yet. Consider doing after Lisa's study. Not sure how many weeks it would be worth, guessing four to six. If we don't like it when we see it, then the plan would be to try a month of Wired Word in October instead. Jennie will get a blurb to Lista for whichever, Wired Word or Proverbs, before Sept 15.

Looking ahead: To try to have some of the possible recipients of our Building Fund Tithe speak about their work at Sunday Forum Sessions for 2-3 weeks before the annual meeting. Probably have them just before or after Christmas to allow Finance Committee time for their Sundays to discuss budget. Jennie has talked to David Weisser about getting that list sooner rather than later.

Learning Ministry:

Preschool:

Our preschool team will not be meeting until September 26th. Julie Sieben (our chairperson) gave a presentation to the council on the 19th.

Faith Formations:

*Very successful rally day.

*We have 29 pre-k-sixth graders signed up for Sunday school. We have 56ers covered and 3/4 has a pair of teachers. Still looking desperately for more to help with 1/2 and pre-k/k.

*Confirmation had six students for orientation night and are hoping more will add. They will be doing a combined class with three teachers willing to help this group.

*A motion was made by Deborah and seconded by Bruce to approve the Trunk or Treat Activity to be held in the church parking lot on Saturday, September 29. Motion passed.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Bruce Arndtson

No report.

Pastor Geier – September 2022 Council Report

- There are many things falling through the cracks these days.
- I have checked-in or attended ministry team meetings for Finance, Faith Formation, Stewardship, Worship, Fellowship, Buildings & Grounds, Adult Spiritual Growth, and CMT, and all managed to go about their ministries without my presence.

- The listening session we had last month was not as fruitful as I had hoped, but I am nonetheless glad that six families were able to share some of their frustrations and hopes.
- I ended up having two “Opening the Bible” sessions on September 10th to accommodate schedules. Seven 3rd graders and their parents participated, and I was very pleased with the turnout.
- I believe that Rally Day was as successful as I could have hoped. We blessed backpacks, awarded Bibles, and had games, treats and activities after worship.
- Confirmation classes have started.
- The third Campfire Catechism went well. I hope to do something similar next year.
- I continue to encourage our remaining confirmation students to complete their faith statements.
- Tomorrow, (9/20/22) I will be attending the funeral for my best friend’s father-in-law, and then he and I will head up to Ely to meet two other close friends for three days of reading, reflection, sermon-writing, fishing and conversation.
- I have agreed to consider serving on our synod’s candidacy committee which supports those discerning rostered ministries and those in seminary. It meets four times a year, with the next meeting on September 29th.
- The first preschool worship time has gone very well.
- Pastor continues to encourage confirmands to complete their Faith Formation Statements.
- I am also considering joining a Zoom cohort focusing on Resiliency for Ministry Leaders. Working with Mary Frances, a certified coach and consultant, they will launch this cohort on October 5th 9-11AM. The cohort will run for 8 weeks with a break here and there- the dates are October 5,12,19—November 2, 9, 16, 30—December 7. Each session will be two hours and topics will include vision and purpose, composure and regulating emotions, reasoning and problem solving, health, tenacity and optimism and collaboration and social networks based on the Six Domains of Resilience as documented by HelloDriven. Week one will focus on introduction and group building. And Week eight will include finalizing a personal plan for continued growth in this area. Check in, Bible Study, prayer, mediation, and teaching around each domain will make up the sessions that will include both small and large group discussion. Cost will be \$175 for this entire process.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.
Your Servant in Christ,
Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

There was no Old Business.

New Business Continued

Sabbatical Leave for Pastor Geier—

Cindy, Chair of HR, David and Pastor discussed this issue and the need for some time to decompress and reflect. Their suggestion was a 1 month (30 day) leave with an additional 6 Sundays without responsibility for worship. The council continued this discussion and suggested increasing the leave to 2 or 3 months with some, but less Sundays without worship responsibilities. More discussion will follow at the next council meeting.

A motion was made by Deborah and seconded by Bruce to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary