

Council Minutes

October 17, 2022, 6:00 pm

Attending: David Weisser, Deborah Dreher, Sadie Reiners, Pam Hoffman, Marjorie Peterson, Abby Mattimiro, Bruce Arndtson, Lois Twedt

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

Secretary Lois Twedt

Deborah made a motion to accept the September 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 September 2022 Financial Reports indicate 2022 year-to-date Giving in three categories, General, Capital and Misc. lagging Budget by 4.62%. Expenses are under Budget by 10.1%. Net Cash is \$27,874, primarily due to open staff positions.

Motion was made by Bruce and seconded by Pam to accept the September Financial Statement. Motion passed.

The Finance Ministry Team is recommending Council approval for the 2023 Benefit Plan for Pastor Geier. We recommend the same benefit plan/level as 2020, 2021, and 2022. The premium percentage of increase is approximately 3.00%. A motion was made by Sadie and seconded by Marjorie to accept the increase in benefit premium payment. Motion passed.

Discussion continued regarding the 2023 Budget process. Preliminary budget will be presented to Council at the next meeting, November 21, 2022.

Vice President Sadie Reiners

No Council Action Required

While the Building and Grounds Team has not formally met, a lot has happened to the property.

1. Most noticeable is that eleven new trees were planted three Saturday's ago where failed trees had been. Our report from Precision which included photos, gave strong evidence that the trees had been planted improperly. The new trees are being watered three times a week during this fall season at a cost of \$65 per time. We'll evaluate this need in the spring. As for the eleven trees lost, my plan is to alert St. Philip's expansion contractor, Langer Construction, West St. Paul and report our significant loss to them.

A beautiful variety of trees was selected by Precision. The tallest will be a New Harmony Elm which will mature at 50' and will be a brilliant yellow in the fall. It's on the east lawn. The donors will know which tree(s) their donation funded shortly. A list of donors, and those they honored through their gift along with the tree variety will be included in the November newsletter.

2. Steve Wolverton has installed new weather strips on all the front entry doors in advance of winter. Steve also did bulb replacement in two areas. The sanctuary is done when we have enough bulbs out to make the job worth the climb. Thanks to Steve as always.

3. Newest interior issue would be the divider- curtains that move on a track in the Fellowship Room. Repairs had to be called for and the job is not done. Ten "trolleys" are on order and need to be installed on the weakest sections of the curtains. A price for doing this will be reported to us soon. It's a matter of new parts and professional installation. It's an essential "fix" for the use of both the Sunday School and the ELC.

4. I'm expecting "One Hour" will come and convert the new Youth Room AC unit for the winter season. That has not been done that I know of.

5. The newly purchased Handicap / Visitor Parking signs were permanently installed this week by Bill Pavlish. This took Bill several hours as he cut out away the tar surface and poured hand mixed concrete into each cavity. Never stop thanking these skilled people who save SPLC hundreds of dollars every quarter.

Serving Ministry Report--Pam Hoffman

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry

Plans are well underway for Philadazzle. There are 11 members on the committee.

Fellowship is providing bars/cookies for the Social Justice meeting on 10/13.

Cards were addressed for military members of St Philip's to be mailed out in November.

Volunteers and donations are still needed for Halloween Downtown family event.

Stewardship

1. Stewardship Campaign Details were reviewed as follows:

Stewardship Theme. "Embody Our Mission". (SPLC's mission)

Stewardship emphasis begins Nov. 13, continues Nov. 20 & 27 with commitment Sunday, December 4, at the 9:30 service, followed by a complimentary Pancake/Sausage Breakfast. (Plan to come)

In conjunction with the upcoming Stewardship theme, beginning Nov 6, Pastor Geier will be introducing a new "close " to the worship service which will be SPLC's mission statement put into a responsive reading format for everyone to read before being dismissed.

The annual large- envelope Stewardship Mailing will be assembled Nov.8.
Contents: Cover Letter, Informational Brochure, Pledge Card, Return Envelope and a Response post card regarding the Celebration Pancake Breakfast. (We hope to engage the Sunday School children in the development of meaningful centerpieces.)

Temple Talk messengers will be Al Carstensen, Camille Johnson Oster, and Beth Fahlstrom.

2. “Staying Connected” is managed by Gerri Lundby who seeks out two or three households every month for a written piece about themselves which is shared in SPLC’s monthly newsletter. This program began in June of 2020, and will continue through the entire active membership list. If you have not had a turn yet, it will come.

HR Report-- Cindy Toppin

No Council Action Required

Kelsey Wormley was interviewed and offered the job of Director of Children’s Choirs. She has many new ideas, and we are so glad she is taking the job. In addition to an elementary teaching background, Kelsey has been involved with music ministry for years at her home church in Apple Valley. Be sure to welcome her when you see her.

Worship Ministry Report– Marjorie Peterson

Council action required.

Attendance is currently averaging 125. We are encouraged by the number of children participating in the children's sermons. A note will be added in the bulletin to remind the congregation to stand, if able, for the Gospel Acclamation. Discussion was held on how to support singing at the contemporary services. Some communicants receive bread with their fingers rather than a flat hand which allows for touching. An announcement will be added regarding this to protect all.

The adult bell choir is doing well and three children are now learning this new skill. We hope there will be more. Adult vocal groups are meeting.

A bells concert of four choirs is being planned for Saturday, May 6 at 6:30 PM. A formal request was made to use SPLC for this event. Our team supports this. We ask for the council's approval. It was the consensus of the council to support this event, and no motion was needed.

Learning Ministries Report –Abby Mattimiro

No Council Action Required

Adult Study Group:

Old Business:

Financial Peace University: Doug talked with Sam Willis about it. Sam will be starting on Parenting Leave in January so will have more time and would therefore like to start it in January. Need to find a day that can attract people. Maybe need to do a survey of how many people interested, and if they would be willing to pay \$50 to \$100 per family (We could subsidize but need to decide how much) and what day/time would be best. He would be willing to do in 1 hour in Adult Forum but all attendees would have to pay. All agreed that Sunday morning Forum is probably not the right place, since that needs to be more drop in than this would be. Pastor willing to offer a money back guarantee and/or scholarships. Sam didn't say there was a minimum but we think that there certainly should be a minimum to make it worth his while. Wednesday night maybe a good night because kids already there for Confirmation. Next step: Item in the bulletin, Doug to wordsmith, to gauge interest and times for Financial Peace University.

Lisa's sessions on Women in the Post Biblical Church has been well received, although not as high attendance as some topics: 4 the first week, 6 the last week. Discussing only 2 women made for a short the first session, Doug felt it was a little rushed with 4 the second time. 1-2 more sessions.

The Wired Word is set up for after Lisa's sessions. The subscription needs to start on WEDNESDAY to get 5 sessions in the 30-day trial instead of 4 if started on Monday. Jennie to contact Lisa to clarify that. WE NEED TO DECIDE WHO WILL LEAD WHICH SESSIONS, but did not discuss that tonight.

New Business:

Ideas for after Wired Word unless we continue it.

People from the charities getting our tithes from the Building Fund. Could start with current ones but Need to know what will be added this year. Jennie to contact current ones. Need to be finished before the annual meeting on the 1st Sunday in Feb.

Proverbs study "in our back pocket" if needed to fill in on Sundays.

Other programming:

Book and leader for Lenten Book Study – Jennie to look at the book Kathy Luedke gave us to see if suitable. Perhaps if it is, Kathy might be willing to lead the study.

Discussed possible change in day for ASG meeting, - nothing appeared to work better so will stay 4th Monday at 6 pm.

Learning Ministry:

Preschool:

- Thank you, council, for allowing Julie to give the update on how preschool is doing and for all your support! Our team thinks a yearly September update would be very helpful so that everyone knows what is going on with the preschool.
- After meeting with council and seeing are numbers are higher than last year, at this point the team decided that the one hour a week each director had given up would be given back to them.
- The church has a small scholarship fund which we ended up using most of to support a student in need. I won't go into details but she said I just want him to learn about Jesus. This along with other factors hit us hard and the decision to give them a T/Th spot was made. We will be using half of our greeting card sale money in November to help rebuild fund.
- We had our annual licensing visit last week and everything went very well!!
- Preschool Christmas program will be December 22nd at 6:00 pm.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Bruce Arndtson

No report.

Pastor Geier – October 2022 Council Report

- I am currently attending our synod's Fall Theological Conference and will return Tuesday evening.
- I have either attended or been in contact with all the ministry teams except for CMT.
- I participated in the Social Justice brainstorming session last Thursday and am hopeful for the seeds that were planted.
- I officiated at the wedding for Taylor Reiners and Max Diedrich on October 8th (& got to sit next to my friend, Sadie!)
- I also officiated at the committal service for Ed Parkin at the Ft. Snelling Cemetery.
- Confirmation classes are going well with me team teaching with Carlos Villavicencio and Kristian Ronning.
- I have met with all but one confirmation student and they have either shared their faith statements or are scheduled to share them. At this point we are set to affirm five confirmands on October 30th.
- I decided to participate in a cohort focusing on Resiliency for Ministry Leaders that will meet weekly through December 7. Details were included in last month's report.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business

Following a discussion on Pastor Sabbatical Leave, the council directs the HR ministry team to develop a plan for a pastoral sabbatical to include, but not limited to, length (to exceed 1 month), number of extra Sundays for release, amount and level of ministerial/pastoral care. Marjorie made a motion to accept the recommendation as read. Bruce seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Recap of Thursday, October 13, Table-Talk meeting on Community Outreach and Social Justice. There were 18 participants. Some of the key ideas/suggestions were to make partnerships with other organizations and churches, do events outside the church to help make us known, work with elderly (vulnerable and lonely), and volunteer to tutor students. There will be a follow-up meeting in a few weeks to determine the next steps.

New Business

As a result of the parent meeting in September, we recommend that representatives from Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp be asked to share their info at a future service. Representatives from Green Lake will share their info in January.

Deborah made the motion that “The distribution, use or imbibing of alcoholic beverages will not be permitted on the grounds of St. Philip’s Lutheran Church except for sacraments (eg communion)”. Pam seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Deborah and seconded by Bruce to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary