

# Council Minutes

**August 21, 2023, 6:00 pm**

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Deborah Dreher, Natalie Carda, Pastor Geier, Pam Hoffman, Marjorie Peterson, Abby Mattimiro and Sadie Reiners

Absent: Warren Thomas

## **Call to Order at 6:05 p.m. by Vice President Sadie Reiners**

**Devotions:** given by Pam Hoffman: Watch and listen for the unexpected visitor, an angel delivering God's message of good cheer!

## **Secretary's Report, Lois Twedt**

Pam made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report. Natalie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Treasurer's Report, Deborah Dreher**

### **No Council Action Required**

Review of July 2023 Financial Reports: Comparing Actual Giving to Budget, Giving is under Budget by 14.7% and Expenses are 19.7% under Budget. Our overall financial situation is still strong. Net Income is \$44,781.

A motion was made by Pam and seconded by Marjorie to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

## **Vice President, Sadie Reiners**

### **No Council Action Required**

1. The weeding day resulted in some of the primary front view areas being addressed but many areas still need attention. Al & Patty Todem did six hours on the front water catch basin and the area in front of the Room of Requirement. Many areas never got weeded. A fall cut down will be scheduled after a frost.

2. Steve Wolverton did a restroom repair near the Youth Room.

3. Very major to this committee is coming to a conclusion on the drainage of snow melt onto two residences to the south of the parking lot. A meeting will take place Wed. Aug. 16 made up of the B & G team, Ground contractor, Aaron Bauer, the affected neighbors, and SPLC treasurer, Deborah Dreher. Cody Mathison, PE of the city, has provided good information on how the situation could be addressed. The cost for the fix is just over \$5,500 which would be done by Bauer Services. Cost sharing with the neighbors will be discussed.

**Update from Pastor:** at the meeting, it was agreed upon by both parties involved (the neighbors and SPLC) that SPLC will have snow removal done as last year: move the plowed snow to the same place (parking spots) as last year, on the parking lot and not in the grass. It was learned at the meeting that the neighbors would probably not consider cost-sharing w/SPLC.

4. Upcoming fixes before the ELC starts up again have been given to the B & G committee for action.

## **Serving Ministry Report--Pam Hoffman**

### **No Council Action Required**

#### Fellowship Ministry

-As of 8/1, 29 of the 55 spots for blood donations are filled for August 24th.

-Concert and pie at LeDuc will be Sunday August 20th. Sign-up sheets for workers and pie donations are out.

**Update from Pam:** sales were close to \$700.

-Garden Share is going well.

#### Stewardship

The Stewardship Team is embarking on a very exciting Stewardship season.

1. Additional funds were granted the Stewardship Team to acquire a paint by number kit or package from Artist Paul Oman which provides directions for a large 8 X 18 ft. Mural which will be painted by St. Philip's members and friends. It will be constructed in September and be ready for painters soon after mid-September. The mural needs to be done by Dec 3., the first day of Advent.

2. The Stewardship theme is "Community Grows Here" which will be practiced in the painting of the mural which will take all of October and November to finish. Its primary display will be across the front of the sanctuary during December. It will not be hung in the sanctuary, only displayed there during Advent.

3. Commitment Sunday will be Dec. 3, followed by a pancake breakfast.

4. "Staying Connected" a part of every monthly newsletter will remain a Stewardship section of the newsletter until all members have been invited to write. Gerri Lundby leads this project.

## **HR Report—Natalie Carda**

### **No Council Action Required**

Nothing new to report.

## **Worship Ministry Report– Marjorie Peterson**

### **No Council Action Required.**

Service debrief: The outdoor service (held indoors due to weather) went well. The Double Down Daredevils found the sanctuary to be a good venue and will be happy to come again.

The Rivertown Days service at the river was a success! Regular Sunday services have had an attendance of 125 - 135. Congregates are impressed by the faith statements.

Prayer Garden Coffee: If the Fellowship team organizes the process and volunteers, the worship coordinators can assist by making the coffee.

Music: Kelsey Wormley has agreed to lead the singing for contemporary services. Other singing leaders, choirs, and bells are scheduled for the fall.

Upcoming events: 8/20 - Dorothy Sundahl will be our guest minister.  
9/10 - Rally Day  
9/17, 10/15 and 11/19 Temple talks  
12/3 - Commitment Sunday

## **Learning Ministries Report –Abby Mattimiro**

### **No Council Action Required**

#### Preschool:

2023 Back to school council report

At our preschool ministry meeting for August, we discussed if having a yearly in person report to the council was necessary. It was decided that because things are looking up this year a detailed written report would be ok. The following gives you last year's information and the current numbers we have going into the 2023/2024 school year.

· For seven of the nine months of last school year we ran at 48 spots full.

September/October was 25 M/W/F and 23 T/Th spots filled.

November/December was 24 M/W/F and 23 T/TH spots filled.

January-May was 24 M/W/F and 24 T/TH spots filled.

· Note that spots filled included 10 children that came M-F. (these students fill two spots)

Our current break down as of 8/16/2023

M/W/F has 29 spots filled.

T/Th has 25 spots filled.

· Note that again this year as of now we have 10 students attending M-F.

We did raise tuition this year for each session by \$10. Current rates:

M/W/F \$190

T/Th \$160

M-F \$315

Last time our numbers were over 50 was the 2019-2020(before Covid)

We are looking to be in a better financial position than we have been for the past few years. We may still have some state money that we can apply for, but we will have to see what it looks like as it changes month to month depending on how many apply.

If you have any questions or would like more details, please let us know.

Thank you for your continued support to the preschool program.

## ASG:

No report received.

## Faith Formation:

- 1) Rally day plans discussed. It was decided to buy a new basketball game and ask Steve W to make us a corn hole game. Goal to add to our bounce houses with more activities for older kids.
- 2) Decided to switch to whirl bibles (to match curriculum) for 3rd graders this year. Three year old bibles will be spark this year (to finish supply we have) and switch to whirl next year.
- 3) Next year's Sunday school, confirmation, Christmas program dates were decided.
- 4) VBS recap was discussed. It was decided to donate our curriculum to another church. If not taken locally, we will charge shipping only.
- 5) Talked about ways to get more people to help with Sunday school and hopefully join faith formation. We are at a bit of a loss for these things and open to suggestions.

## **Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Warren Thomas**

### **No Council Action Required**

Bruce, Jay, and I are going to start researching options for replacing the cameras and disconnecting the Comcast ones. Update from Pastor: CMT will also look into cost saving with HBC instead of Comcast.

## **Pastor Geier – August 2023 Council Report**

- The normal regimen of staff, ministry team meetings, etc. plus a buildings and grounds meeting to address potential flooding issues of our neighbors to the south due to rapid snow melt.
- I have visited or called all our members who are homebound or in nursing homes.
- I am still trying to get the remaining 10th graders to complete and schedule their faith statements. I have enlisted the help of their mentor to hopefully be an encouraging source of support in this matter.
- I have been spending extra time planning for confirmation including scheduling, corresponding with parents, and working with Kristian Ronning and Carlos Villavicencio.
- After advertising, preparing a presentation and materials to share, I had exactly zero youth attend the National Youth Gathering meeting on August 13th. At first, I was disappointed, then angry, and then just really sad. I did receive an email late Monday and took handouts to a parent on Tuesday. I have tried to put the word out that I will gladly reschedule the meeting or meet one on one with any interested parties.
- I would very much like to get back to teaching some sessions of Adult Spiritual Growth as I miss doing that, but I am not sure what to cut out to make it possible.
- It sounds like our synod trip to Tanzania is a go and I am excited about the opportunity. Update: this trip has been put on hold.
- We have had first time visitors to worship each of the last three Sundays. Please be on the lookout for opportunities to introduce or reintroduce yourself that we might witness Christ's hospitality.

Additional: Pastor will be interviewed by Mo at KDWA. There will be two sessions: the first, he will speak about food insecurity in Hastings, and what SPLC and its volunteer are doing, ie: benevolence tithe to HSF and UW Food4Kids, Feed My Starving Children, Meals on Wheels, food sorting at HFS, and the possibility of Ruby's Pantry. If you have any additional comments to provide, let Pastor know. The second interview will be a Bible study on Jonah. Times for airing the interviews can be found on KDWA's website or FB page.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

## **Old Business**

The Tools for the Church discussion was tabled to August meeting.

Discussion pursued regarding the handouts...demographics within 10 minutes of SPLC address....high percentage of unchurched, specifically w/millennials. Question: what can/should we do with this information? This leads us to believe that we need to do more evangelism: us sharing God's good news, willing to be inviting and sharing. Also, 75% of SPLC current members are not engaged, so outreach to our current members is an avenue to pursue.

High School Ministry needs an advisor for Fall Start.

Pastor reported one person responded to our message in Bulletin. Pastor will contact the three highschoolers (via parents) who made the presentation to Council, who were seeking more ministry for their age group. The volunteer can then connect w/these individuals to determine what they would like to do, i.e., early morning prayer group.

Pantry food distribution update: no one was present to give the update. Due to the announcement in Worship and the article in the August newsletter seeking volunteers, Council discussed whether the plan for Ruby's Pantry is ready to be approved. Deborah will email Jen Klos and Katie Thomas, asking them to present an update and/or plan at the September Council meeting.

Pastor trip to Tanzania: on hold.

## **New Business**

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Abby to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Submitted by Deborah Dreher, Acting Secretary