

Council Minutes

May 20, 2024

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Dolores Pemble, Dave Fry, Natalie Carda, Maria Gathje, Jen Klos, Warren Thomas, Pastor Geier, Nick Clark, Lois Twedt, Glenda Schnirring, Deborah Dreher, Bruce Akins, Dave Tank.

Call to Order by President Dan Strehlow at 6:02 p.m.

Pastor Geier introduced Nick Clark to the Council. Nick will be serving us as a partner with Interserve.

New Business:

Members of the Complete the Dream Committee--Glenda Schnirring, Deborah Dreher, Bruce Akins and Dave Tank-- presented their vision for Complete the Dream. They explained the history/background of this project, the floor plan design, code changes since first designed, and the financial investment.

Secretary's Report, Lois Twedt

Natalie made a motion and Jen seconded the motion to accept the Secretary's Report as written. The motion passed.

Treasurer Dolores Pemble

No Council Action Required

The Finance Ministry Team met on Monday, May 13 via zoom. Giving continues to be strong and expenses are in line with expectations. Report was approved. Pastor gave us a brief report on the initial meeting of the Discovery Team with Interserve. We discussed the email approval of the bid for replacement windows. Pastor will follow up on obtaining a report from the audit committee. The success of the Raise Right fundraiser will be enhanced if all congregational leaders support the program by purchasing some cards. The June meeting will be held by email to approve May financials.

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Jen to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

Vice President Alex Zuzek

No Council Action Required

Building and grounds update

Since April's meeting, six sanctuary bulbs were replaced at the end of April. Halogen provides the best light, so we always make replacements with that kind of bulb. Six volunteers did the job over a nearly 3-hour effort. Steve Wolverton heads this up.

Grounds clean-up is this Saturday May 18, from 9 to 11. Bruce Arndtson will bring a supply of mulch in on a trailer. We need people who can walk wheelbarrows of mulch to spots where it's needed. Weeding will also be done as needed. We won't work beyond 11:30.

The window replacement in the old sanctuary has been carefully evaluated by Dan Strehlow and Bill Pavlish. The windows will be delivered in June.

Dan Strehlow brought in a machine which dug out excess black dirt from the west water catch between the west driveways on Sunday May 12. This will create better drainage during heavy rainfall. Dirt will be deposited in low spots on the grounds.

The kitchen sanitizer was cleaned of its lime deposits by Steve Wolverton recently. There is a continual need for this task to be done.

Serving Ministry Report—Dave Fry

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry

OLD BUSINESS:

1. SAINTS GAME JUNE 21: We had a great response to our advertising. We were aiming for 25 to get the group rate on tickets. On the first Sunday of April, we already sold 33 tickets, with a total of 46 for the month. Dolores Pemble will get an invoice from Saints Rep Adam to purchase the tickets. She'll also request a check to be cut. We'll have envelopes with tickets and parking information to be picked up May 19 and June 2 after services. Mary Charlson will work May 19, Kathy on June 2. Lista will also have them in the office.
2. OUTDOOR SERVICE ON JUNE 23: Kathy, Glenda, Darla and Mary C volunteered to pass out ice cream cups. Camille will pick up from Cub and bring ice packs. Glenda will ask for two long tables in front of side door along sidewalk.
3. PRESCHOOL PANCAKES APRIL 30: Pastor, Amy, Lois Wroge, Darryl and Camille Nelson helped make and serve pancakes, bananas and milk to preschoolers and families before their field trip to Carpenters' Nature Center. They expected between 60-80 eaters, but we were too busy to count! Cost for trip was paid for by Raise Right funds.
4. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DAY ON APRIL 24: A colorful bouquet of flowers and card were given to Lista as a thank you for all her work for us.
5. FAMILY FUN NIGHT: Pictures in the newsletter reflected what looked like lots of fun!
6. PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT: Camille spoke briefly to Camille Johnson-Oster about our thoughts of helping with some token of support during workshop or conferences. She thought that a bit later in the fall might be a good time as well. Revisit in July.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. GRAD SUNDAY JUNE 2: Camille sent an email to Lista, Pastor and Becky Kaphing inquiring as to what was being planned for grads. Any help needed from us?
2. PHILADAZZLE: First day of Advent, Dec. 1, falls on Sunday after Thanksgiving. Consensus was to go forward with it again. Maybe we don't need a specific theme. Could use similar menu to last year.

June 20 at 5:00 was set for Planning Session. Camille will ask Lista to put something in newsletter and make a sign-up sheet for interest from congregation.

3. NEW MEMBERS: Glenda will ask to have a paragraph put in bulletins in regard to interest in becoming members and will mention also to Pastor. Something will be mentioned about use of pew pads, also. There have been some regular attendees that may be ready to join.

4. BLOODMOBILE: Thursday, August 22—Katy, will you be advertising during the summer?

Stewardship

The Stewardship Team remains on a recess from hands on activity. Gerri Lundby will continue to provide her recruitment of members writing about themselves in the “Staying Connected” feature of the monthly newsletter.

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

The HR Committee did not meet this month. There are no updates to report and no action items for the council. Nothing to report.

Worship Ministry Report— Maria Gathje

No Council Action Required.

Service Debrief: Average attendance has gone up to 160. There has been a steady increase since March. There were many positive comments about the Praise service with the Shepherd of the Valley musicians, Sam Willis, Kelsey, Emily and Dave Tank. The Bells music was much appreciated. The children in the bell choir did a good job, and nice to see and hear them. Services are generally going well, the sermons and children’s sermons have been great to hear. John continues to do a professional job putting slides together with appropriate themes. The ones for the Praise worship were especially appreciated.

Communion/Worship Leaders: The graduates attending their recognition on June 2 are being asked of their willingness to fill worship leader positions for that service.

Music planning:

- May 12 (Mother’s Day) Older children with adult choir; Little children’s choir also singing.
- May 19: Unity
- June 2 (traditional service, grad recognition): Choral ensemble—Looking at touching base with college students to determine if we have any college grads.
- June 9: Bells
- June 16: Unity
- June 23: Outdoor service
- September 8, Rally Day: The Shepherd of the Valley musicians will be asked if they would be willing to lead that day. Others from our congregation have expressed an interest in performing as well. Kelsey will be investigating this.

Learning Ministries Report –Jen Klos

No Council Action Required

Preschool:

- Next year's spots filled (capacity for spots is 32 per day) M/W/F 18 T/Th 12 Our spots full for this year are M/W/F 29 and T/TH 25 Last year at this time we had 42 spots filled the year before was 33 total spots full.
- Advertising- We ordered new fence banners and have handed out some yard signs to church members. We continue to use Facebook well.
- We had a very successful field trip to Carpenter Nature center on April 30th. We also enjoyed a pancake breakfast beforehand. Serving over 80 people in 20 Min. Thankful for our pancake makers and servers. We had a licensing visit on May 8th. The visit itself went well with No violation found on this visit. We are, however, struggling with the state's new hub system and hope to get that issue resolved soon. According to the licenser, we are not the only one having issues and the program rolled out too fast before it was ready.
- We will be getting our new woodchips this summer. The cost will be \$2,500. We will be using raise right money to cover this project. We will most likely need to take money from checking to pay it off at time of service but will continue to raise funds until fully covered.
- We did use \$315 from the church designated emergency scholarship fund for a family in need of help with May tuition. They were very grateful.
- Budget wise we did well this year (thanks to careful spending, donations, and snack donations from families) and should be about 2,000 ahead this year.
- Our plan is to communicate over the summer with our team via email and will probably meet in person in August unless we need to sooner.

ASG:

- Pastor noted the excellent attendance and quality of sessions at the recent 3 sessions on schools and 2 sessions on drugs.
- Lisa's sessions on homelessness are set up and will end our Sunday Forums for the season. Blurbs have been written and given to Lisa.
- Pastor planning to do a series in the summer. Since the 3rd Sunday in June is Father's Day to make that one on Wednesday, June 19th, the other two on the third Sunday of July and August. He will do newsletter and bulletin blurbs.
- Lisa is planning "something" on spirituality in the summer, would start with bulletin announcements, then Newsletter, maybe for July and onward.
- Ideas for future:
 - Chuck: suggesting 3-4 sessions on end of life in the fall, will start outlining He is planning to go to a U series on ethics, Wills, DPA's, hospice, hospice chaplain
 - 2-3rd week Oct, maybe do the gun control, active shooter, etc.
 - Further future: Lisa will be gone in May 2025, on a Luther Sem trip to Turkey, all 7 church sites from Revelation. Open to the public, too.
 - Possibly, could we have the back room (currently called the Youth Room, previously the Gathering Room) and the 56ers in the Learning Room in hopes we have continued higher attendance.
 - Discussed possibly doing some kind of full Bible overview again. Pastor has the visuals for Crossways and both he and Jennie are trained instructors in the program. Would have to judge interest in a multi-session program with homework first.

Faith Formation:

No Report

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Warren Thomas

No Council Action Required

CMT installed the cameras and are now in use.

Pastor Geier – May 2024 Council Report

- Normal ministry team, contemplative prayer meetings.
- I attended the synod/South Conference meeting for considering a possible new ministry in Rosemount on April 18th.
- I led our preschool chapel on and April 21 & 22 and May 8 & 9
- I attended the Hastings Ministerial Association on April 24th.
- I led worship at Oak Ridge on April 24th and at Regina on May 1st.
- I began a collegial/mentoring relationship with a new colleague in the South Conference.
- On April 30th, I (along with Amy, Camille & Darryl Nelson, and Lois Wroge) prepared a pancake breakfast for our preschool students and their parents before their field trip to Carpenter Nature Center.
- Also on April 30th, our Discovery Team met with Sue Megrund and Nick Clark from InterServe and everyone was very excited to start this partnership. Nick will hopefully be joining us at our meeting tonight so you will be able to meet him.
- Our Confirmation Spring service trip to Feed My Staving Children on May 1st was very successful and fun with 26 youth and adults participating.
- On May 2nd, I along with nine others from St. Philip's participated in the HMA prayer breakfast at Starkson's praying for police, sheriffs, firefighters and first responders, educators, businesses, city employees and elected officials etc.
- Also, on May 2nd I attended our South Conference meeting in Burnsville.
- I participated in the Roadside Park cleanup on May 4th.
- I, along with Cheryl Bullington, Kathy Luedtke, and Doug Schulz, attended our synod's annual assembly on May 10th and 11th.

On a personal note:

After various doctor visits, tests, prescriptions and PT, I have been pain-free in my right arm for over three weeks! (And the pinched nerve symptoms have almost disappeared.)

By the time we meet I will be back from visiting my father-in-law in California after, what I trust will be productive and enjoyable time.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business:

Nick shared a little about himself. We are his 6th congregation to serve as an Interserve partner. His contract with us goes through May, but can be extended or adjusted as needed.

New Business:

Dolores made a motion that we support the Completing the Dream plan. Natalie seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

The Council discussed allowing the Augsburg Singers to hold a concert at St. Philip's during the fall months. A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Jen to allow the concert to be held at St. Philip's on Sept. 15, Sept. 22, Oct. 6 or Nov. 3. The Augsburg Singers will be given the four dates to choose from. The motion passed.

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

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary