

Council Minutes

June 19, 2023, 6:00 pm

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Sadie Reiners, Deborah Dreher, Pam Hoffman, Abby Mattimiro, Warren Thomas, Pastor Geier, Lois Twedt, Jen Klos, Katie Thomas

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

Secretary's Report—Lois Twedt

The time for the Rivertown Days Worship Service was updated to read 9:00 a.m.

Pam made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report with the above correction. Deborah seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer Deborah Dreher

No Council Action Required

Review of May 2023 Financial Reports: Comparing Actual Giving to Budget: Giving is down by 13.6%. Expenses remain 21.8% under Budget. So, our overall financial situation is still strong. Net income is \$41,666.05.

An additional \$1425 has been given to the cost of the new projector.

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

Vice President Sadie Reiners

No Council Action Required

The following areas of Buildings & Grounds activity have happened this month:

1. Council reviewed two issues at its May meeting regarding sanctuary lighting and the surfacing and striping of the parking lot. The lighting issue will be budgeted for 2024 and the surfacing and striping by Tundra was approved and will be done this summer. Tundra was notified immediately following May's meeting.
2. All trees were removed from the Pleasant Drive boulevard at the city's direction.
3. Al Todnem, Jan and Neil Misegades and Steve Wolverton have done unofficial weeding on their own schedule. Lots of weeds infest all parts of the lot. A property clean-up and trimming day has been scheduled for Sat. July 15.

4. Precision Landscaping was instructed to put the eleven new trees on a watering regiment during this dry time.

5. Window washing took place by Fine Shine. (\$360)

6. A semi-annual inspection and filter replacement on all HVAC installations was done May 30, by Binder at the cost of \$675.

Serving Ministry Report--Pam Hoffman

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry

No report.

Stewardship

No Report

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

Nothing new to report.

Worship Ministry Report– Marjorie Peterson

No Council Action Required.

Service debrief: Attendance steady or slightly higher. Agreed that decision for preaching from the pulpit or in front of the altar is Pastor Geier's to make. Preferences voiced for each. Reading from the Bible is appreciated.

Praise worship Music: Ellen described the historical nature of praise music. It is typically written for solo or praise band performance, not congregational singing. Therefore, congregational participation is encouraged by rote learning. Printing the music requires copyright permission limiting the number of songs available for use and they would be difficult to follow. Slides for the projector would demand more time and financial resources to create, with a large number of slides needed for each song.

The Worship and Music team supports the continuation of teaching these songs by rote learning, and with time, they will be familiar. Suggestions were made to play the tunes during offering and to offer a "learning session" 15 minutes before worship begins. While complaints have been received, so have many positive comments for the praise service.

Music: Ellen continues to plan worship services and music for the summer. LuAnn announced the acquisition of a three octave set of bells donated by a Lakeville church. A dedication will be planned when they are first used. Appreciation was expressed for the use of our facility for the bells concert which drew 300 in attendance and 60-79 performers.

Outdoor service: Plans were reviewed. Advertising flyers were put up around town and invitations welcoming visitors were placed in shoppers' bags at the garage sale.

Rivertown Days service: Songs will be printed in the bulletins, two families will serve as ushers, SPLC's electric piano will be used, and VBS children will sing. Other song suggestions were "Shall We Gather at the River" and "Down to the River to Pray."

Learning Ministries Report –Abby Mattimiro

No Council Action Required

Preschool:

The Preschool Ministry Team will not be meeting this month. Our next scheduled meeting is in August, unless something comes up that needs to be addressed sooner.

ASG:

April minutes--The Prayer of Good Courage series was not terribly well attended.

The Wired Word, earlier sessions relatively sparsely attended but the last one quite well attended although a bit off the original topic, had good discussion.

Doug talked to HFS, they had already done a community wide session on homelessness so he doesn't think doing it for the whole community makes too much sense but Katy Lindberg did give him some information from that session that could potentially be used for something internally at SPLC.

Jennie will also follow up with Lisa on her "Freedom of a Christian" for fall.

"Anti-Semitism," (see March notes) Jennie still needs to talk to the group referred to in the Star Tribune article. Would be for later fall.

ASG did not meet in May. Chuck Clanton volunteered to do a session on gifting based on a Harvey Mackay column, "Priceless Gifts You Can Give".

Faith Formation:

No report received.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Warren Thomas

Council Action Required

Jen Klos & Katie Thomas attended the meeting to share the possibility of hosting a "Ruby's Pantry". Ruby's Pantry is a once a month, pop-up pantry, drive through food shelf opportunity. St. Philip's would provide the location and a core group of 6-8 volunteers. 20 more volunteers coming from the church or the community, would be needed each month. A \$20 contribution would be asked of each car. 10% of the funds would remain at St. Philip's. The monthly commitment would be approximately 3 hours. Deborah made a motion that we move forward with the process for hosting a Ruby's Pantry at St. Philip's Church. Pam seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The projector on the right side of the sanctuary is out of alignment. John will be contacted.

Pastor Geier – June 2023 Council Report

- The normal regimen of staff, ministry team meetings, etc.
- We have had an above average number of folks hospitalized or in transitional care.
- On May 24th, I attended the Hastings Ministerial Association.
- On June 1, I had a synod candidacy committee meeting. There are some very gifted people looking to become pastors and deacons.
- Three of our high school graduates were recognized and affirmed on June 4th.
- It was fun to serve lunch to our garage sale preppers on June 6th.
- The High School Campfire on Wednesday the 14th went with 5 youth participating. Tetherball, Ladder Golf, and S'mores were the most popular.
- Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the funeral and luncheon for Norma Mossman.
- It is my intention to have completed the remaining performance appraisals by the time we meet on the 19th.
- I have brought copies of demographic info that we received at the synod's "Tools for the Church" and would like to discuss them at some point.
- When I led worship at Regina, I was able to celebrate Holy Communion with those gathered (which was a first.) In addition, two of our members were present.
- Becky Kaphing and I have been working together on getting everything ready for VBS on July 17-20.
- On a related note – we will be incorporating our VBS celebration with our outdoor community worship service at the Hastings Rotary Pavilion on July 23rd.
- I will be leaving on vacation this Wednesday and returning to the office On July 5th. Pastor Joel will be available for pastoral emergencies through July 1. Otherwise, you are welcome to call my cell phone.
- Pastor Melinda Quivik will be preaching on June 25, and Pastor Betsy Hoiium will be preaching on July 2.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business

Worship Ministry has addressed the idea of adding music score to the lyrics. They have made some suggestions to increase familiarity with the songs.

Tools for the Church discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business

Three of our young people, Ashlyn Bernt, Dakota Bauer, Linnea Ronning, have created a video presentation sharing their desire to have ownership in a youth group—meetings, fundraisers, activities. They are looking for advisory support and one or more adults to spearhead this program. The Council agrees that High School Ministry is important. Warren made a motion stating that the Church Council will support the creation of a youth group ministry at St. Philip's. Abby seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Sadie and seconded by Pam to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary