

Council Minutes

September 18, 2023, 6:00 pm

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Deborah Dreher, Sadie Reiners, Natalie Carda, Marjorie Peterson, Warren Thomas, Pastor Geier, Lois Twedt, Katie Thomas, and Jen Klos.

Call to Order at 6:00 p.m. by President Dan Strehlow

Secretary's Report, Deborah Dreher/Lois Twedt

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

Treasurer Report, Deborah Dreher

No Council Action Required

Review of August 2023 Financial Reports: Comparing Actual Giving to Budget, Giving is under Budget by 15.18% and Expenses are 21.27% under Budget. Our overall financial situation is still favorable. Net Income is \$56,000.

2024 Budget worksheets will be sent to Staff and Ministry Team leads during mid-September. Worksheets will be due back to Christine by mid-October so 2024 Budget worksheet draft may be updated and reviewed at November Finance Ministry Team meeting on November 13. Hopefully, the final draft will be presented to Council on November 20. Final budget review will occur at the December Council meeting.

The Church's Property & Casualty Policy and the Workers' Compensation Policy will be renewed on September 19, 2023. Prop/Cas Policy premium will increase by \$1,773 or 16.7%. Coverage for the structure increased 8.6 and property coverage increased 8.9%. Work Comp policy will have no increase in premium, and no change in coverage.

The City of Hastings furnished SPLC with information relating to Pleasant Street assessment. Financial recommendations from Finance Ministry Team will be decided at October meeting and brought to Council at their October meeting.

Information relating to Portico Benefit Plan is being reviewed and will be finalized at the October Finance Ministry Team meeting.

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

Vice President Sadie Reiners

No Council Action Required

1. The eleven trees planted last fall have been on watch due to drought conditions. Precision has been told to begin a fall watering schedule. Gary MacDougall did a big watering on the 5 east trees over Labor Day. There is still concern about whether they all made it. It will be spring before we know.
2. Al Todnem has done weeding along the front facing 15th St.
3. We prepared the children's playground in time for ELC to start by weeding the wood chip fenced area and Bruce Arndtson and Steve Wolverton trimmed the weeping birch out the east door for the Children's access to the playground.
4. Many areas that needed large summer weeding did not get done. The dry weather made it difficult.
5. Fahlstroms did some perennial planting in the catch basin out the front door.
6. The committee met with the city of Hastings regarding the correction of snow melt on south of the parking lot. Aaron Bauer appeared with the committee to describe a way to connect with a pipe connecting to another catch basin. We also have a damaged catch basin along the south curb of the parking lot that should be repaired. Pavlish and Wolverton did some patching on it two years ago. Cost for the water diversion would be \$5,500 and repairing the parking lot catch basis would be \$4,200. We are not going to do either project this year. The neighbors in attendance were not interested in cost sharing and suggested we try the same plan again for 2023-24, and St. Philips agreed. The neighbors in attendance were not interested in cost sharing and suggested we try the same plan again for 2023-24, and St. Philips agreed. We will instruct Precision to again put cleared snow on the lot taking up a number of parking places.
7. We expect the parking lot will be sealed and striped yet this fall when Pleasant is open again. (\$16,700).
8. Five trees were selected to be put on the Pleasant Dr. Boulevard at the City's expense.
9. B & G committee will budget for repair to one of the two projects described regarding snow melt for 2024.

Serving Ministry Report--Pam Hoffman

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry

Nothing new to report.

Stewardship

Stewardship met Tuesday, Sept. 12, and finalized its fall Stewardship schedule.

The "roll out" or introduction to the fall, '24 Stewardship campaign will happen Sunday, Sept. 17. Al Todnem will explain the theme "Community Grows Here" through the painting of a "community mural" by members of St. Philip's, over the next two months. The Bible verse supporting the Stewardship emphasis of "Community Grows Here" is Romans 12:5. "So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually, members one of another."

The stewardship season will continue with temple talks happening on October 22 and Nov. 19. An all-congregation mailing will be created and received by the third week in November.

Stewardship Sunday, where pledges are gathered in, will be Sunday, Dec. 10. A pancake -sausage breakfast will be offered free of charge to all worshippers on Dec. 10.

During the next two months open painting times will be provided to members almost every day of the

week. The mural will be complete by December 3, when it will be moved to the sanctuary and on display throughout December. The mural will image the Scriptural message of “For Unto Us is Born A Child”.

We hope dozens of people of all ages join in the community effort of painting the Christmas mural. The mural will not remain in the sanctuary but either dis-assembled or placed in another portion of the church.

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

Biennial review of Employee Personnel Files occurred during the month of August. In addition, the annual audit of payroll entries was also completed. No exceptions found.

Worship Ministry Report– Marjorie Peterson

No Council Action Required.

The congregation has been appreciating the confirmation faith statements. It was felt that Dorothy Sandahl did a good job filling in for Pastor Geier.

Music groups were scheduled. Because of some confusion with preparation before a service last month, an attempt will be made to have only one group perform at a service. No groups should be scheduled for December 17 which is the date for the Children's Christmas Program.

Christmas plans:

Sunday, December 24 - the 9:30 service will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent with regular communion.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm. with communion kits only. The 3:00 service will be live streamed.

Dec. 31 - Lessons and Carols service.

Learning Ministries Report –Abby Mattimiro

No Council Action Required

Preschool:

No report received.

ASG:

No report received.

Faith Formation:

There is a third person interested in joining Katie and Becky on this committee. This will be a great help.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Warren Thomas

No Council Action Required

The committee is still looking at the new camera situation.

Pastor Geier – August 2023 Council Report

- The trip to Tanzania was restructured and I decided to postpone my participation as it will be less of a continuing education event.
 - I enjoyed my two-part interview at KDWA with Mo McNeary on August 22nd.
 - We had 22 participants for our Feed My Starving Children session on August 26th.
 - I lead worship at Oak Ridge on August 30th and at Regina on September 6th.
 - On August 31st I attended an Overdose Awareness Presentation at the Confluence that addressed the growing danger of fentanyl in our community and country.
 - Confirmation orientation went well on September 6th with 18 out of 22 participating. In addition to talking about recent changes including meeting as a single group and starting confirmation in 6th grade, we also did a service project in helping Jennie Thomas prep materials for school kits and did acolyte training.
 - Our “Opening the Bible” class on September 9th was attended by four children and their parent(s). In addition, I shared the materials I use with two other parents who were not able to bring their children that day but who wished for their children to receive Bibles.
 - I was pleased with our Rally Day activities but think I need to request help in advance with the setting up and taking down of inflatables and games. Pastor is extremely grateful for Warren’s help in taking down the inflatables. We will be loaning our inflatables to other churches when requested.
 - Pastor will be gone on Sunday, December 31.
 - I am still trying to get the remaining 10th graders to complete and schedule their faith statements. Getting closer. . . .
 - I had my first two preschool chapels and am glad to get those back on the schedule.
- *We continue to have visitors worship with us. Please be on the lookout for opportunities to introduce or reintroduce yourself, that we might witness Christ’s hospitality.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business:

High School Ministry advisor. There is nothing new to report on this.

Ruby's Pantry food distribution update. Katie Thomas and Jen Klos reported that a representative from Ruby's will be coming on Thursday, Sept. 28, to check out our space and determine if we can move forward in November or February. A motion was made by Warren and seconded by Natalie to support moving forward with plans for Ruby's Pantry. Ruby's Pantry will be under the leadership of the Fellowship Team (Serving Coordinator).

New Business:

No new business.

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