

## **Council Minutes**

**January 20, 2025**

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Dolores Pemble, Maria Gathje, Alex Zuzek, Dave Fry, Jen Klos, Warren Thomas, Natalie Carda, Pastor Geier, Lois Twedt

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

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

There were no revisions to the report. Natalie made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report, and Jen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **Treasurer Report, Dolores Pemble**

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

The Finance Ministry team met on Monday, January 13, 2025. December Financials were discussed and approved. The Audit will be conducted on January 28 by the Audit Committee so the results will be available for the annual meeting. The Transition for finance is going well with more duties turned over to the accounting firm and more being handled by volunteers following the resignation of the Business Manager. We discussed the Pleasant Drive assessment and decided that when the CD comes due in April, we will pay off the balance with those funds. Note was made of the budget meeting on Sunday, January 26 and all members were encouraged to attend. Our next meeting will be Monday, February 10. A motion was made by Alex and seconded by Warren to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

#### **Vice President Alex Zuzek**

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

The Team now has 12 members following the Ministry Fair in November.

Veteran members are: Steve Wolverton, Bill Pavlish, Paul Swannstrom, Bruce Arndtson, and Wayne Fahlstrom. Second group of members: Al Todnem, Dave Tank, Dan Strehlow and Tricia Bremer. Newest members: Kent Hoffman and student David Tierman. Glenda is the B & G's coordinator.

The Team reviewed its work from 2024 and will discuss possible repairs or improvements for 2025. Major building improvements last year were the installation of 3 casement windows in the old sanctuary, led by Dan Strehlow, and the installation of two mini split AC units in the same room purchased and installed by Bathricks of Hastings. Immediate requests for 2025, are for a new shelf for Heidi Nelson's paper supplies similar to the shelves already in the new custodian room. The second request is to replace the two-seat short sofa in the narthex play area. The leatherette is chipping off the existing one. Duties were reviewed for first quarter, plus the discussion of unfinished business from 2024. No large expense is budgeted for 2025.

## **Serving Ministry Report—Dave Fry**

### **No Council Action Required**

#### Fellowship

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. 2024 ANNUAL REPORT: We made corrections to Fellowship and Community Ministry Annual Report, will submit to Lista.
2. POTLUCK AFTER ANNUAL MEETING FEB. 2: Info was in the Jan. newsletter, we asked Lista if needed help sending out postcards, she'll let us know. Camille will check on supplies and let Heidi know the set up needed. We plan to set up placemats for 100 at 9 am Saturday, Feb. 1: Glenda, Patty, Camille, and?; Workers for Sunday Feb. 2: Patty, Pam, Glenda, Camille, ?
3. PHILADAZZLE DONATION: Chris Falteisek donated back the extra money (\$320 more from free will collection + \$152 from dinner guests) We gave him \$400 after the concert, which is all he wanted to accept. After much discussion we thought to use the \$472 towards St. Philip's music ministry, maybe hire outside musicians (High schoolers, Black History Month for Easter/Christmas) or other needs. Camille will check with Becky Raimann as to their needs.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. GRAD CARE PACKAGES: Max Lucado Books and Target gift cards. We'll ask Lista for lists of names and parents. We'll contact parents for current addresses.
2. MARCH BLOODMOBILE: TUESDAY, MARCH 18, noon-6. Katy Lindberg will use Sign up Genius again.
3. SAINTS GAME: We thought we had a good response for our first Saints outing and should try again. We'll talk to Dolores Pemble to contact the Saints' Rep that she used last year.
4. MERLE ARNDTSON FUNERAL: Served around 160, set up for 200. Glenda will talk to Starkson's regarding the payment given to WELCA for funeral luncheons. She'll also check with Deborah Dreher to determine if funeral luncheon expenses are paid from WELCA, Fellowship, or general funds? Pam will look at Costco for large disposable containers for leftovers given to families. WELCA will purchase more plastic water pitchers, so can have enough for each table. Glass pitchers are too heavy to use.

#### Stewardship:

The Abiding in God's Abundance theme for the fall campaign resulted in the following:

Three Temple Talks beginning in Sept. with Marjorie Peterson, Oct. Virginia Spence, and Nov. Alex Zuzek.

A mailing was assembled by the team, made up of an inspirational brochure depicting the theme of Abundance, a pledge card, envelope, Time and Talent form and cover letter from Pastor Geier. It is sent to the full roster of both active and inactive St. Philip's households, which is close to 325.

Results are as follows:

106 pledge cards returned - 106. (110 in '23)

Time and Talent forms returned - 69

Simple Giving Enrollees: 31

General Fund pledged: \$304,860, (\$329,850 in '23)

Capital Fund pledged: \$140,940. (\$160,163 in '23)

Merchants fund Mortgage Fund Balance: \$1,670,371, down by \$124,120 from '23.

All payments of \$13,500 were made on schedule.

Stewardship Sunday was Dec. 8 followed by a Pancake/Sausage breakfast, attended by 120 guests.

“Keeping Connected” the featured articles in the monthly newsletter is coordinated by Gerri Lundby and will continue through 2025.

## **HR Report—Natalie Carda**

### **No Council Action Required**

Nothing to report.

## **Worship Ministry Report— Maria Gathje**

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

Service Debrief: Attendance continues to be good with a Sunday service average of 157 for December.

- Blue Christmas: Though in-person attendance was 17, there were several people that felt more comfortable watching from home. The lighting of candles in memory of loved ones was appreciated. The service filled a need for those having difficulty getting through Christmas.
- Christmas Eve attendance was 3 PM: 300, 5 PM: 97. The services were very nice. The string music was especially appreciated at the 5 PM service. A suggestion for the future was to sing more common Christmas hymns for this service. “I Am So Glad” and “Infant Lowly” are not as well known as “O Come All Ye Faithful”, “Angels We Have heard on High” and “O Little Town of Bethlehem”. The candle lighting went well for “Silent Night”. It was suggested that we stand when singing it. There was quite a bit of spilled wax. Firm directions about holding the candle upright for at least a couple minutes after blowing out is helpful. Also, direction to have adults help the children.
- Lesson and Carols: Many positive comments about this service. The timing for the service was good after the activity of Christmas. Format was nice with the scriptures. The service lasted 23 minutes. If there were more scripture readings to add in the future that would be acceptable, but the number of hymns was good as is. No concern expressed about a shorter service than usual.
- Thank you to John Diischer for the lovely slide presentations, especially during this very busy time of year.

Worship Leader Schedule: There had been a request from a member to get the schedule out sooner. It comes out at the same time the newsletter is printed. There has not been a problem filling positions, as recruitment can be done at the time of the service if the worship coordinators are aware of a need. It was suggested that the statement on the schedule be edited to: “Please let Lista in the church office know of any changes to this schedule or if you are unable to find a sub”. She can then let the worship coordinators know that they will need to find a sub. Also, if people would prefer to be scheduled later in the month, Lori Best will accommodate them.

Praise Worship: There have been comments/requests regarding the music for this service. There was a suggestion to use music from With One Voice (WOV) songbook. Songs from this book have been incorporated into our current hymnal. There has also been a request for congregational singing during communion when there is no special music. Becky will investigate which songs had been used in the past for this purpose and send a list to Pr. Geier for planning purposes. The Ministry team felt that some of these songs could be incorporated into the service along with the 24 contemporary praise songs in the current repertoire.

Ministry Team Members: Barb Jorenby is retiring from the team. We are grateful for her many years of dedicated service to this ministry. The nominating committee will be informed of a need for new members.

New computer in sanctuary: A new iMac computer was purchased and installed. It was used on January 5 for worship. Thanks to John, and his son Mark, for getting that up and running.

Music planning:

- Jan 12: Adult choir
- Jan 19: Unity
- Jan 26: Bells
- Feb 2: Children's choir with Kelsey as song leader; Sam Willis as organist
- Feb 9: Margaret Cox and grandson on Cello
- Feb 16: Unity
- Feb 23: Bells

Future Planning: Ash Wednesday is March 5. Easter is April 20. LuAnn and Becky will consult with Noreen and about music for those services. Becky will make contacts regarding a brass ensemble for Easter 10:30 service.

## **Learning Ministries Report –Jen Klos**

### **No Council Action Required**

#### Pre-School:

- 2025-26 tuition set
  - o T/Th - \$180 /month
  - o MWF - \$215/month
  - o 5 Day - \$325/month
- Current preschool family struggling to pay – team agreed to provide money from our scholarship fund to pay for part of the t/th tuition
- Annual report reviewed
- Registration night Feb 18th 5:30-6:30pm. Early registration for current families and church members - Feb 11th
- Advertising
  - o We'll have a table at the Community Youth Resource Fair on Jan 16th
  - o Will place ad in Community Ed catalog for spring & summer
- Event updates:
  - o Librarian coming this month for story time presentation
  - o Culver's Fundraising Night – January 27th 5-7pm
  - o Guest visits from Carpenter Nature Center to do an animal-themed program scheduled for late February
- Finance Reports
  - o Noted that Raise Right fundraising has covered many of our expenses for this school year, including snacks, supplies, Carpenter Nature Center programs, and the spring field trip

#### Faith Formation

Our Sunday School children led worship on December 15th with a Nativity play. It wonderful to have so many adult volunteers and youth participants help share the important story of Christ's birth with those in worship. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped with stage direction, music leadership, costuming, and so much more.

The high school fellowship event was on Jan 15th, where we took a small group to Feed My Starving children. We had a great time packing meals, getting to know each other better as we made a difference for hungry kids. Great event! I will say we had a much lower number of participants on this one than our laser tag event--only 2 high schoolers and 1 adult. Even though it was still a worthwhile event, I think the big takeaway is that these fellowship events are much trickier for high schoolers on weeknights than on Sunday evenings (FMSC isn't open on Sundays, so we had to take a chance on this one).

Our next Family Fellowship event will either be on Feb 16 or Feb 23, and we'll be doing a Book Bingo afternoon! The idea is that families and kiddos will play several rounds of Bingo for the hour and earn donated books as prizes. We've got several donated books already, and plan to ask the congregation for a bit more. Should be a great fellowship event!

#### ASG:

Old business:

It would be nice to have something in each week-- a teaser for the next week as well as what is happening that particular week.

Schedule: January newsletter is already out: Jan 5: The Wired Word – Doug to present and will get the blurb to Lista by 9 am Friday after seeing on Thursday what the new topics might be.

Jan 12: also, The Wired Word – Jennie to present and will try to check directly on The Wired Word on the Thursday before to see what topics are available and get the blurb to Lista on Thursday but for sure by 9 am Friday.

Jan 19: Pastor something on “How to get more out of a Sermon”

Jan 26: No Adult Ed: Budget Forum in prep for the Annual Meeting

February, not for the newsletter until more details are worked out.

Feb 2: No Adult Ed: Annual Meeting Day

Feb 9: Dr. Champa: follow up on the community survey that she had promised on her last visit.

Feb 16: Doug has Elaine Mikel, Hastings resident and a lawyer with one of the top firms in Minneapolis, who is an estate planning specialist, lined up to talk about wills and trusts (moved from Feb 9, because that had already been given to Dr.Champa). She didn't think she would need two weeks but was wondering if enough questions would be generated to have her back a second week.

Feb 23: Pastor Geier (he was OK with Feb 16th, will need to check on whether he can move to the 23rd)? topic likely something about “Unity” with Biblical references to “oneness”

Ideas for March Adult Forums:

March 2: Maybe something on health directives if not used for a second week on wills and trusts. Jennie to check with Regina chaplains or Allina about a possible presenter once date firmed up.

March 9: If health directives not moved to here, maybe a hospital chaplain explaining what they do and how it differs from a parish pastor making a hospital visit. Jennie contacted Glenda about her granddaughter, who until recently was a hospice chaplain. She has recently taken a different job but might still be willing. Jennie will contact the Regina chaplains if Glenda's granddaughter declines.

March 16: Pastor? Topic TBD

March 23 or 30: Chuck possibly to see if late enough in the term for Death Cafe students from St. Olaf to present.

Other ideas:

Cindy Toppin has agreed to lead a Lenten Book Study. She has picked a book on refugees and will write her own blurb and get it to Lista in time for the Feb newsletter so people will have time to acquire the book.

Chuck brought up the idea of sponsoring a “Caregiver's Night Out” once a month, where caregivers could bring children or dependent adults to the church for a night of planned activities while the caregivers can go out to dinner or a movie or just shopping without the caregiving responsibility. Apparently, a school Chuck knows about has done this, with as many as 100 kids attending. Consensus was that it sounds like a nice idea but has some logistical issues (liability, who does the programming, etc) and probably falls under the team doing community service, not Adult Spiritual Growth. He may find out more about what is being done elsewhere and pass it on to a different committee.

#### Interserve:

No report.

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

### **Council Action Required**

We have a bid for installing outlets in four locations for future cameras. I will present that bid and answer any questions.

### **Pastor Geier – January 2025 Council Report**

- Participated in ministry team meetings, staff ministry team meetings and weekly contemplative prayer group meetings.
- Visited nursing home and home bound members and celebrated Holy Communion.
- Eight hospital visits and multiple pastoral care events
- Preschool chapel on January 9th and 15th.
- Hastings 7th Grade and 8th Grade Vocal Concerts
- Hastings Ministerial Association on December 18
- 5th grade orchestra and 6th-8th grade orchestra on November 21
- Led Blue Christmas service on December 21st.
- Officiated at funeral service for Merle Arndtson on December 31.
- Officiated at funeral service for Chuck Bungert (Sue Severson's father and Becky Kaphing's grandfather) on January 13th and committal service at Ft. Snelling on January 14th.
- South Conference meeting at St. James Lutheran in Burnsville on January 14th.

Other things to consider:

- I don't know how those attending the annual meeting via Zoom will be able to vote on the disbursement of our benevolence ministries.
- On February 22nd, there is a Tool Kit for congregational leaders as well as our pre-assembly conference caucuses at Shepherd of the Valley in Apple Valley. I will bring more information to share Monday Night.
- Information shared from Theresa Chatelle with Food 4 Kids:

We so appreciate your consideration for space for our Food 4 Kids program.

As for space, secure would be nice, but not necessary. This size space would accommodate the food storage and the packing events. If you do not have a space that size, we could use a smaller space for food storage and then just set up folding tables for the packing events each week.

We have all the shelving we need to store the food. They are rolling so they are easily movable. The space needed would be roughly a 22x15 room/space.

For the packing events, we usually have 4 volunteers come at 9am to help set up for the packing and then a group of about 10-12 people come into pack and it typically takes about 30 minutes, so we would be done by 10:45am. The food is delivered once a week around 8 or 8:30am and that takes about 15 minutes. My volunteers or I would be at each of the packing events and myself, and another volunteer would take care of unloading the food. We also have another volunteer that would pick the bags up on Tuesday morning around 9:30am to deliver them to the schools. It typically takes him 15 minutes to load up and he typically must make two trips but would be done by 10:45.

We do currently have insurance for our volunteers. Our current lease is up February 2025

Your Servant in Christ, Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

### **Old Business:**

Partnering with Food 4 Kids—We have some concerns about available space, particularly during our garage sale and other special events of the church. Pastor and Dan will meet with Theresa to get answers to some questions and get more specifics on what is needed.

Jen will investigate options for voting on Tithing charities via Zoom during the Annual Meeting.

There will be an update on the hiring recommendation from Interserve at the February meeting.

CMT has received a bid of \$700 for the installation of 4 outlets. They are pursuing other companies.

**New Business:**

The Council thanked Warren for his 2 years of service as the Council rep from CMT and are thankful he will remain on the CMT Committee.

The date of March 2 was suggested for the Leadership Retreat.

A motion was made by Alex and seconded by Dolores to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary