

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes
July 19, 2018

Members present: Paul Dressler, Mary Jenatscheck, Karen Buum, Kristy Larson, Pastor Kristi, Jeff Vetsch, Randy Raub, Craig Brenden, Pastor Paige, Heidi White, Isaac Thompson

1. Call meeting to order – Kristy called the meeting to order
2. Devotion and prayer – Pastor Paige led us in a devotion & prayer
3. Approval of agenda – Motion/Seconded/Approved
4. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – May 23 Special Congregational minutes seconded/approved. Correction to June 21 agenda, 32 rather than 31 attended the Youth Gathering. Seconded/Approved
5. Ministry team reports
 - July 18th potluck was a success with a good turnout.
 - Worship Enhancement fund to be used for Sunday organist & pianist was discussed. There is enough funding available. Worship team approved unanimously. Current costs are \$60 per service with the thought to go to \$80, to be more in line with other area churches. An additional pianist and possibly organist is a possibility. Targeting September as a start. If this individual doesn't come forward the position can be advertised. Motion/Seconded/Approved
6. Staff reports
 - Pastor Paige
 - Reported on a conference in Baltimore that was appreciated.
 - Trying to alleviate confirmation issues for this fall.
 - A number of people have read Pastor Paige's sabbatical letter.
 - Youth Gathering was wonderful!
 - Pastor Kristi
 - Had a final goodbye with Debbie. She has everything for fall laid out.
 - A number of baptisms will take place in August and a new family will be received.
 - A community member will enter into ordained ministry. He wanted to be a part of the ELCA for its openness. The Synod recommended he speak with Pastor Kristi to be mentored. He plans to join our congregation and plans to volunteer.
 - The Synod sent an e-mail asking if Grace would consider being a part of a collaborative learning partner from Wartburg. The seminary and the synod pay tuition and the congregation would be asked to pay for some of the life expenses. What might this mean for us to be a part of training leaders? This could begin as early as September.
 - Community connections have Grace being thanked for all the church does for others.
7. Business and discussion items
 - Sabbatical update – Pastor Kristi spoke with Pastor John who was excited for Pastor Deborah to be here 5-8 hours per week at hourly Synod rate. Costs will come out of Staff Development fund. Pastor Kristi's mentee may have opportunities to contribute during the sabbatical.
 - Handling of Offering Money – Policy recommendation for handling the offering money were presented. Members will need to be recruited to handle the offering money.

- Treasurer Position – Job position will be developed.
- Security at Church – Example of a security policy was located and this will be reviewed and adjusted for Grace. Emergency plans were discussed.
- Finances
 - Update on giving. Expenses came in below budget. The contingency fund is at \$7,500 not \$5,000. Offering is down a bit compared to previous year but expenses are right on. Suggestion that as summer ends to reiterate financial need for offering giving. Grace Garden’s tuition is down though numbers when school begins will be more reflective.
 - Discussion of Council members speaking briefly during the offering time on Sunday, plan in place.
 - Stewardship Team – Discussion on getting more members on the team. One suggestion that might be more effect is for individuals to be asked face-to-face.
 - Social Media Messages – Pastor Paige and Kristy Larson will meet to review technology for social media messages. These will be reminders of all the good going on at Grace.
 - Electronic Giving Options – Some giving options and promotional materials available were shared. Other alternatives to think about are: a giving kiosk, the give plus side-kick and the give plus swipe.
 - Videos – Discussion on continuing videos.
- LEAD (Living Everyday As Disciples) – A process to help move the direction of a congregation was reviewed. Recommendation to have a pastor involved with this process to come and share more.

8. Date of next meeting: Council will meet August 9 at 7:00 PM. Executive meeting on August 7 at 6:45 PM.

9. Adjournment - Motion/Seconded/Approved

Approved August 9, 2018