
Peace In Christ Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: March, 21 2024

Time: 5:30 pm

Council Members present: Pastor Ludwig, Paul Holt, Pastor Weight, Paul Hendricks, Julie Hendricks, Michele Lox, Liz Shannon, Taylor Wheeler, Larry Erickson, Julie Smith

Council Members absent: Amy Kanuit, Allison Stone, Angela Swenson

Others present: Beth Esselstrom

Item	Owner
<u>Call to Order</u>	Julie Hendricks
<u>Devotion / Scripture</u>	Pastor Ludwig

Reports

Secretary Report **Allison Stone**

-February 2024 meeting minutes approved electronically

Treasurer's Report **Liz Shannon**

- At the end of February we were \$34,979.45 in the red year to date for 2024. Our mortgage balance is \$312,203.17.
- The Hermantown All Night Grad Party has requested a donation. Julie Hendricks moved to give them \$150 from the Olga Hart account. Michele Lox seconded and all were in favor.

Community **Michele Lox**

- Michele Lox presents the Community report.
- March Ruby's Pantry report: 200 shares were distributed.
- Peace in Christ bell ringer volunteers raised \$992.76 for the Salvation Army over Christmas.

Discipleship**Angela Swenson**

- Taylor Wheeler presents the Discipleship report for Angela Swenson.
- The Sunday School kids are singing in the church on Palm Sunday.
- VBS dates are June 17-21, 2024.
- Youth group is continuing to go strong.

Elders**Paul Holt**

- Paul Holt presents the Elders report.
- Paul was officially elected the Elder chair. Craig Talbot is the scribe.
- Attendance numbers for February looked very strong.
- 3 baptisms and one funeral happened in February.
- The current new member class is looking to be around 22 people.
- The Elders are discussing providing more usher training.
- Pastor Ludwig and Pastor Weight will be doing services at the Pillars starting on Easter Sunday. They are looking for a pianist.
- The new church secretary started 3 weeks ago.
- The Elders and Liz Shannon have ensured compliance with the new Minnesota safe and sick law. The Elders will also consider whether it is important to create a long term sick leave of absence policy and what Concordia recommends.

Operations**Paul Hendricks**

- Paul Hendricks presents the Operations report.
- A new subdivision will be built on a 13 acre site on Maple Grove Road. The subdivision will include 9 duplexes and individual family homes.

PIC Life**Amy Kanuit**

- Amy Kanuit was not present to give the PIC Life report.
- We need more help with the Easter Breakfast. The Pastors will put out an ask on Palm Sunday.

Time and Talent**Julie Smith**

- Julie Smith presents the PIC Life report.
- No updates.

Worship**Larry Erickson**

- Larry Erickson presents the PIC Worship report
- He has the new mics for the choir loft. They will be installed after holy week. He needs to rent a lift to do the install. He's also still working on the wiring in the A/V room.

Old Business:

1. Organ replacement committee report from Beth Esselstrom.
 - a. They have begun gathering information for the organ. Problems began to arise about a year ago. They've called in a repair person and it became evident that the organ is at the end of its life as it is essentially a 20 year old computer.
 - b. Our current organ was made in the Netherlands. There are not many available people who can repair it. However, there is one in the Twin Cities.
 - c. They've been looking at 2 electronic organ brands: Rogers and Allen. A New organ would cost \$50,000 -100,000. They move and deliver to us. Rogers has a \$1000 installation fee. They come with 5-10 year warranties.
 - d. They've also been looking at some pipe organs. There isn't an ideal spot for a pipe organ in our sanctuary because of the shape and features of our sanctuary. Organ Clearing House (OCH) is the website that they've been looking at for pipe organs. Some of these organs are free, others at \$7,500. They range from 50-125 years old. The website charges a flat \$2,500 finders fee. OCH would help to find a company to transport and install. To purchase a used pipe organ from them they recommend budgeting \$300,000 to cover the costs of moving, refurbishing and installation in our building.
 - e. They have seed money of \$2,500. The committee thinks the fundraising goal should be \$70,000-\$75,000. That would give us the opportunity to purchase an electronic organ, but maintains the option of a used pipe organ through OCH.
 - f. St. Lawrence Catholic church in Duluth may be getting a new organ and Beth has been trying to connect with their music director about their current organ and the opportunity there.
2. Preschool playground fence. Julie Hendricks contacted Kari Collins about the need for the fence. It would be nice for the teachers, but it is not currently a requirement. If we switched to an all day - day care, we would be required to have the fence.
3. Education wing roof permanent ladder project update - Julie Hendricks.
 - a. Julie has found a ladder for \$2,000. Awaiting Glen Hanson's input.

New Business:

1. Strategy for closing the gap between income and expenses - Julie Hendricks
 - a. The Council discussed ideas:
 - i. Highlighting for the congregation what our monthly deficit is currently.
 - ii. Doing a pledge card Sunday.
 - iii. Pointing out that our membership and Sunday attendance is good, but that Church expenses have risen due to inflation.
 - iv. Having congregation members speak about the importance of increasing giving.
 - v. Show online givers how to login to change their giving amount.
 - vi. Point out ways to minimize transaction expenses associated with online giving.
 - b. We will wait until after Easter to start this campaign.

- c. A smaller committee will formulate a plan. The group will include Julie Hendricks, Julie Smith, Paul Holt, Pastor Weight and Pastor Ludwig. They will meet at 5:30 on Tuesday, April 16th.
2. Strategic planning for the next 2 years deferred to April meeting- Julie Hendricks

Next Meeting: April 18, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Weight

- **The minutes of all the committee meetings will be filed in the church office, posted on the church website, and electronically sent to all members of the council.**
- **At each council meeting, there will be an opportunity for council members to report on:**
 - **Major events that their committee has scheduled**
 - **Recommendations that will need council approval**