

Pella Council Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm January 9, 2018

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Randy Iversen at 6:59 pm. Travis Rosaaen read a devotional left by Pastor Joel titled The Descending Way from Letters to Mark About Jesus.

Members Present: Erin Anderson, April Boehler, Jody Christensen, Randy Iversen, John Nelson, Vanessa Pooch, Travis Rosaaen, and Diane Savage. Members with excused absences were Sue Andersen, Natalie West, and Pastor Joel Westby.

Visitor Concerns & Information Sharing: Charles Lowman was present on behalf of the Endowment Committee. He reviewed the minutes from the December 19, 2017, meeting with Council and stated that the Endowment Fund had \$778,008.17 in total assets, with \$66,211.20 of those being restricted. He also presented the Committee's recommendation for the annual gift distributions, which total \$26,500 (same as 2016), which is approximately 4% of total assets. Diane Savage made a motion to distribute the 2017 annual gifts as recommend by the Endowment Committee:

Beneficiary	Olson Religious Fund	Svaare Youth Fund	Svaare Property Fund	E. Johnson Youth Fund	2017 Total
Boys & Girls Club		\$1000			\$1000
LYO Trip to ELCA National Convention		\$2000			\$2000
Richland Co Emergency Shelter Coalition – Matthew House		\$500			\$500
Richland Co Coalition – Domestic Abuse		\$700			\$700
Pella Youth Camperships		\$1000			\$1000
Pella Lutheran College Scholarship Fund		\$1500			\$1500
Sidney Schools Needs Children		\$2000		\$500	\$2500
ROI (Richland Opportunities, Inc.)		\$450			\$450
St. John's Lutheran Home in Billings	\$600				\$600
Lutheran Campus Ministry, MSU and Uof M	\$500				\$500
St. John's Chapel – O.C. Johnson Memorial	\$600				\$600
Upper Missouri Ministries at Epping	\$1000				\$1000
Eastern MT Community Mental Health for Sidney	\$1000				\$1000
Pastor's Disaster Relief Fund	\$2000				\$2000
Lutheran Social Services	\$1000				\$1000
Freedom in Christ Ministry – MT State Prison	\$1000				\$1000
Pella Deb Service "Building Fund"			\$9150		\$9150
Total Gifts Given	\$7700	\$9150	\$9150	\$500	\$26500

Jody Christensen seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed. Before Charles left, Diane Savage thanked him and the Endowment Committee for these gifts.

Randy Iversen then shared mail received from several organizations. The Boys and Girls Club sent a letter that explained their mission and also gave information on donations. The Richland County Right for Life and ELCA World Hunger both sent a thank you. The MT Synod sent a letter asking for the church to review its budgeted giving and explained how funds received were used.

Additions/Alterations to the Agenda: None

Minutes: Travis Rosaaen made a motion to approve the December Council minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Diane Savage, voted on and was approved.

Financial Report: John Nelson gave the financial report. The Checking Account has a balance of \$120,720.01 and the General Fund balance is \$50,531.23. The Set Free to Serve Loan balance is currently at \$533,539.15. John recommended that an additional \$3,792.67 be sent to the ELCA Synod Benevolence. This figure is based on Pella contributing 10% of annual General Fund receipts. Total receipts for 2017 were \$367,926.69, which would mean 10 % would be \$36,792.67. Pella has already sent \$33,000, so the \$3,792.67 would bring the total payments to the \$36,792.67 (or 10% of total General Fund receipts). Jody Christensen made a motion to make a contribution in the amount of \$3,792.67 to the ELCA Synod Benevolence in order to make Pella's 10% contribution for 2017. April Boehler seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed. John also stated that after the Benevolence payment, the General Fund balance would be approximately \$46,700. He recommended leaving a carryover balance of \$30,000, with the remaining \$16,738.56 being put towards debt reduction on the Set Free to Serve loan. Jody Christensen made a motion based on John's recommendation to transfer \$16,738.56 from the General Fund to the Set Free to Serve loan to reduce the debt. Vanessa Pooch seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed. Randy and John both discussed that at the next meeting, Council may be presented with a list of dedicated funds to reallocate in order to clean up other accounts (accounts that are inactive). Upon review of the expenses for December, Council questioned the amount of several discretionary fund distributions and would like clarification as to the distributions. A review of the disbursement policy (\$250 limit) was also suggested. Randy stated he would look into the distributions and review the policy with Pastor and the office staff. Diane Savage made a motion to approved the Financial Report as presented. Vanessa Pooch seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed.

Pastor's Report: With Pastor Joel being absent, Council looked over his report. It was noted that Pastor will be on vacation from January 9 through January 16, 2018. Council was also reminded that there is less than 7 months left on his contract.

Endowment Committee: This was already presented earlier under Visitor Concerns and Information Sharing.

Nominating Committee: Sue Andersen sent the minutes, which Randy read. Six individuals are willing to serve a three-year term on the Council. Those members are Leif Anderson, Darla Dahl, Jennifer Doty, Tom Hedegaard, Russ Houtari, and Scott Koterba. The three members elected will be determined at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018. The Nominating Committee also reviewed the names recommended to serve on the Endowment Committee. These names were presented to Council at the December meeting, and were approved. Greg Miller and Mark Olson both agreed to serve on the next Nominating Committee, upon election.

Budget Committee: Randy presented the budget figures. He stated that one major change was budgeting for moving expenses for a new pastor. Other items were discussed and the estimate is approximately \$370,000 in General Fund donations. Randy also indicated that the Library should be added to Committee Reports during future Council meetings and he gave a quick summary of expenses paid by the Library during the 2017 year. Randy also indicated that a new copier lease will be signed with Marco, which is a 5-year term, but the cost is less than the current maintenance contract.

Call Committee: Randy Iversen reported on the December 31st meeting. He stated that Pastor Audrey Rydbom from Cody, Wyoming will be arriving in Sidney on Friday, January 12, 2018. She will meet with the office staff that day. On Saturday, January 13th there will be a meet and greet soup supper starting at 5 pm. On Sunday, January 14th, Pastor Audrey will lead worship. Afterwards, LYO will serve brunch and there will be another meet and greet.

Christian Education Committee: Erin Anderson reported on behalf of the Christian Education Committee. The Christmas Program and Holiday Meal were both held on December 20th. Both were well attended. WBS offering disbursement is still in the works. LYO is currently working on fundraising for the ELCA trip in July (11 individuals are registered and finances are looking good). A list of upcoming fundraisers for LYO was listed. The VBS starter kit has arrived and Janelle would like to start begin planning meetings in January. An Advent activity recap was presented and ideas are already in the works for next year. A First Communion class is in the works for 2018. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, January 16th at 5:30 pm.

Personnel Committee: Diane Savage reported on behalf of the Personnel Committee. She presented Pastor Joel's proposal for Janelle's current position and compensation package. It was discussed that the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator should be changed to a full-time position. Along with that, the job title should also change to reflect the role of the position. Council read through Pastor Joel's reflections upon this change. The proposed compensation package would be an increase of 28% over the current salary. After some discussion, Vanessa Pooch made a motion to accept the proposal, which includes salary of \$32,000; a \$6,000 insurance offset; and two weeks' vacation; along with the Personnel Committee changing the job description and title to properly reflect the job duties. Travis Rosaaen seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Property & Grounds Committee: Nothing to report.

Pella Pantry: Nothing to report.

Outreach Committee: Nothing to report.

Stewardship Committee: Vanessa reported on behalf of the Stewardship Committee. She stated that the Committee reviewed the current cards received versus cards received in the past. They also reviewed anticipated donations and actual donations. 2018 is the final year in the Set Free to Serve Campaign. They were hoping to extend the current Campaign another year, and noted that contributions have decreased since the initial campaign. They also discussed what would be next after the building project is paid in full.

Worship & Music Committee: Diane Savage reported that she had received feedback regarding the renaming of this committee to just "Worship Committee". She stated that the reasoning behind removing "Music" from the name was due to the fact that music is part of all worship and they felt it was inclusive of worship. She just wanted Council to be aware should it be brought up at the Annual Meeting. Randy Iversen also went over a few items from prior minutes.

Old Business:

Council Objectives/Goals for 2017 have been completed, are progressing, or are in process.

Based on the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee, Diane Savage made a motion to transfer the excess funds from the Lilies/Poinsettias of approximately \$379 to the Sign Fund. Travis Rosaaen seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed.

New Business:

Jody Christensen made a motion to designate Council's \$500 from Pella Pantry to LYO. Diane Savage seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed.

Travis Rosaaen made a motion to pay the annual Chamber dues of \$100 (were paid with check #19012). Vanessa Pooch seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed.

Action on the Personnel Committee recommendation for the Director of Youth and Family Ministries was done during the Personnel Committee reported as noted above.

Diane Savage made a motion to accept the proposed budget of \$372,224 as presented by the Budget Committee. Jody Christensen seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed.

Randy Iversen reminded Council that the Annual Meeting is January 28, 2018, after worship (approximately 10:15 am). He asked that Council members arrive around 8 or 8:30 am to help set up for the potluck. He will ask Chole' to put an announcement in Sunday's bulletin so members know what they should bring.

Randy also suggested that Council should elect a Vice President (if quorum is present) at the opening of the next Council meeting as Sue Andersen will still be absent. That way, the V.P. can run the meeting.

Diane Savage made a motion to adjourn the meeting. April Boehler seconded. Motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively Submitted,

Erin Anderson, Secretary