

## Pella Council Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm April 11, 2017

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Randy Iversen at 7:09 pm. Pastor Joel Westby led with a reading from Steadfast in Your Love and then a prayer.

**Members Present:** Sue Andersen, Erin Anderson, April Boehler, Jody Christensen, Randy Iversen, John Nelson, Vanessa Pooch, Travis Rosaaen, Diane Savage, and Natalie West.

**Visitor Concerns and Information Sharing:** Representatives from Thrivent Financial were unable to attend again. Information about their presentation had been shared by Randy at the March meeting. Pastor Joel shared a letter received by the Museum of Danish America. The letter stated that if our church had archival materials in Danish or Danish artifacts we desired to have preserved or no longer wished to keep, that we should contact the museum. It also mentioned the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oaks Indian Mission. After some discussion, it was noted that Pella would keep any Danish items at the church, but that perhaps an article could be written for the Ambassador to make the congregation aware of the museum and the celebration. Erin was asked to write the article. Randy presented a Giving Statement from the MT Synod thanking Pella for its ministry and giving. The statement gave a breakdown of Pella's giving.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Nothing at this time.

**Minutes:** Diane Savage made a motion to approve the March Council Meeting Minutes. Sue Andersen seconded the motion with the following addition to the minutes of the March 7, 2017, Council Meeting - Under "Old Business": Council asked the Personnel Committee to review and draft Employee Grievance and Progressive Corrective Action forms and/or Plans of Improvement. Motion for approval, with the addition, was voted on and passed.

**Financial Report:** John Nelson gave the financial report. The Checking Account has a balance of \$66,265.58 and the General Fund balance is \$1,957.87. The Set Free to Serve Loan balance is currently at \$701,526.45. Sue Andersen made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Jody Christensen seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. John called to Council's attention that we may need to look at reclassifying the Set Free to Serve loan if the monthly payments cannot be met. Thrivent Financial handles the loan and we may be able to extend the loan terms to reduce the monthly payments. John stated that Pella can use some of the money market funds to make the monthly payments until funding turns around. Randy stated that he would give a Table Talk on the current loan situation and the financial statements in the upcoming weeks to keep the congregation informed. Council asked John to start communications with Thrivent about the loan refinancing so that we could make a decision at the next Council meeting as we need to make a decision prior to the June loan payment.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Joel Westby gave the Pastor's Report. In addition to the typical monthly tasks, he informed Council that \$1,430 had been collected for Synod House. Pastor Joel presented the

following new members for approval: Linda Weidrich, Yin Yu, Tyler Harris, and the Thrams family (Josh, Britany, Rye, and Rigger). A motion was made by Travis Rosaaen to accept the list of new members and Jody Christensen seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed. Pastor Joel also asked for Council approval of the students finishing Confirmation this May to be confirmed. Those students include: Jaylen Baxter, Claire Frank, Jaxson Franklin, Kolby Hutzenbiler, Alexa Iversen, Braden Klinke, Liliana Johnson, Logan Jones, Ian Jurgens, Alexia Metz, Brodey Skogen, and Taylor Stewart. A motion was made by Diane Savage for approval of the list of Confirmands and Natalie West seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed. Pastor Joel then brought up discussion regarding the Synod Assembly in Great Falls on June 2-4. He said that no voting members of Pella had signed up to go as of yet. He encouraged those interested to find out more information and said that Council members were eligible to attend as well as other voting members of the church. He also reminded us that he would be gone that Sunday to attend the Assembly and discussion was held regarding the worship for June 5<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Joel said that the Bishop would be putting out a sermon for that Sunday that could be read. The discussion then turned to who would be able to preside over Communion on that Sunday. Pastor Joel informed Council that the Bishop had to approve a Lay Pastoral Associate by giving that individual license to perform Communion at a particular church for a particular day. Discussion was held regarding who we could have preside and whether we could just not have Communion on that Sunday. Randy said he would talk with Alton Hillesland about filling in on that Sunday.

**Christian Education Committee:** Erin Anderson reported on behalf of the Christian Education Committee. WBS students sang on Palm Sunday (April 9<sup>th</sup>). WBS students are collecting soap for the LWR Personal Care Kits. Last day of programs is May 17<sup>th</sup>. Janelle will hold a meeting with 5<sup>th</sup> Graders and their parents to discuss the Confirmation program. Senior Recognition Sunday is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation Sunday is May 7<sup>th</sup>. The LYO butter braids fundraiser brought in \$1,472 and Noodles and Doodles was held April 1<sup>st</sup>. Janelle and Vanessa held an informational meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. VBS dates of June 19-23 and advertising was discussed. Development of a Campership Policy was discussed and a draft policy was presented. Another book fair was signed up for and this one is aimed at kids. Janelle will serve on the Reformation 500 Task Force. Janelle reported that sermons are now available on the Pella website. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

**Pella Pantry:** No meeting, but may have one in the next 3 weeks.

**Personnel Committee:** Diane stated they are working on the semi-annual evaluations. They are working on changing the format of the evaluations and the corrective actions.

**Property and Grounds Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Stewardship Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Worship & Music Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Call Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Endowment Committee:** Diane attended and presented the names of three committee members for Council approval for continuation on the committee. Those individuals were J. Harry Johnson, David McMillen, and Tina Montgomery. Diana Savage made a motion to approve the members for continuation on the Endowment Committee. Motion was seconded by Travis Rosaaen. Motion was voted on and passed.

**Reformation 500 Task Force:** Nothing to report.

**Old Business:** Diane Savage presented proposed changes to the Congregation Constitution for Council members to review. She asked that we review and follow through with the process for getting the changes approved as there are several draft versions over the years that have never been finalized. She stated they could send the draft off to the Synod for review. The final step would be presenting to the congregation for a vote.

Council Objectives/Goals for 2017 were discussed. Planning for the church wide recognition of Reformation 500 may start in May. The Membership and Outreach Committee was discussed. Discussion included having the goal of the committee be defining active/new membership, ways to increase membership, and overall outreach activities. It was noted that perhaps a review of pew cards, time and talents sheets and assistance from Becky Reidle would help aid in the goals/formation of this committee. It was also discussed that a Table Talk could be given on this committee and the church directory could be reviewed for potential members. Randy asked that each Council member come to the next meeting with three name suggestions for possible members of the committee. There was no other Old Business.

**New Business:** Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned by Jody Christensen making the motion and Sue Andersen seconding the motion. It was voted on and passed.

Respectively Submitted,

Erin Anderson, Secretary