

Pella Council Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm December 5, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Randy Iversen at 7:01 pm. Pastor Joel Westby led with a reading from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's God is in the Manger.

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

Visitor Concerns and Information Sharing: Jason Lamb was present to express his concern with the current Council election process, which is a casting of lots. He would like Council to consider changing both the Constitution and Bylaws to restore the process to an actual election, as had been in the past. He informed Council that he had received a brief history from Alton Hillesland regarding the election process that was used in the past and the reason for the change. Jason feels that having an election would result in better representation of the Church Congregation. Although he feels that the current and prior Council members selected by the lottery system have been qualified, he thinks that a better cross-section of the Church may be covered if the members are nominated and voted on by the Congregation. He suggested that perhaps there should be guidelines on qualifications of members for nomination and understands that this change, if made, would not be effective until after the January 2018 Annual Meeting. Randy Iversen read an e-mail from Chris Hillesland regarding this same matter. Chris would also like the Council to consider changing the Constitution and Bylaws to make the Council selection by election, rather than by casting of lots. Chris feels the church members should be able to vote for their choice and he stated he was on Council when the process was changed and didn't agree with the change then, and still doesn't agree with the current process. Council thanked Jason for his time, and added the topic to New Business.

Randy shared the Synod's Benchmarck for 2018 Support packet that had been received. He stated that once the budget is approved, the Council will sign the card and return. Randy stated that the packet included where the moneys would be spent and encouraged Council members to read through the information. He also indicated that a Table Talk may be given at a later date.

Additions/Alterations to the Agenda: As stated above, the topic of changes to the Constitution and Bylaws regarding the nomination process for Church Council was added to New Business. It was also requested that the topic of a donation from the Wednesday Night Meal be added to New Business. During the Financial Report, John recommended that the Needy Children Christmas funds be dispersed, and this was added to New Business as well.

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

Financial Report: John Nelson gave the financial report. The Checking Account has a balance of \$125,761.75 and the General Fund balance is \$41,425.06. The Set Free to Serve Loan balance is currently at \$581,629.31. John noted that the General Fund balance at November 30, 2017, should be adequate to cover December expenses. Upon review of the dedicated funds, it was suggested that Men's Fellowship review their account, and perhaps they could make a transfer of money. The designation of the oil lease money was also discussed – it is currently designated for the sound system cabinet, but John thought perhaps this should be re-designated for another project. Prior minutes will be reviewed to determine when the original designation was approved. John also recommended that the remaining unpaid budgeted contributions to the ELCA Synod Benevolence, Global Missions, and Rocky Boy be paid. Vanessa Pooch made a motion to approve payments totaling \$9,378 as follows: ELCA Synod Benevolence - \$5,500; Global Missions - \$3,044.06; and Rocky Boy - \$833.94. Jody Christensen seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed.

Diane Savage made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented. Natalie West seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel gave a summary of his activities since November 5th, as well as his upcoming schedule. He mentioned that staff reviews had been completed. A summary of building uses, upcoming building uses, and worship attendance was also reviewed. He also reminded Council that there is less than 8 months left on his contract (ends July 31, 2018).

Nominating Committee: Randy reported that they had met and Sue Andersen has a list of individuals.

Budget Committee: Randy reported that the committee had met. Budgets from Property and Grounds, Worship and Music, and Education had been received. 65 estimate of giving cards have been received to date. The next meeting is on Monday, December 11 at 5:30 pm.

Call Committee: Randy reported that a pastoral visit has been planned for January 2018.

Christian Education Committee: Erin Anderson reported on behalf of the Christian Education Committee. December 20th is scheduled for the Christmas program and holiday meal. A WBS offering disbursement was discussed, and ideas for where to disburse those moneys was discussed. Two Lambert students have joined Year 1 Confirmation students. The October LYO activities were recapped. Some discussion was held regarding the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2018, and what the transportation options were. It was also reported that the LYO students would like to write a covenant and would also like to be more connected to the Church. Advent activities started on December 3rd and continue through the 24th. The budget was also discussed and amounts were given to be taken to the Budget Committee. The next meeting in Tuesday, December 19 at 5:30 pm.

Randy asked how many students were planning on attending the ELCA Youth Gathering. Vanessa stated that there are 9 signed up, with two chaperones. The transportation options were discussed. Concern regarding the cost for the trip was expressed. John recommend that the balance of the LYO budget from the general fund be transferred to the LYO dedicated fund at year end. Based on John's recommendation, Jody Christensen made a motion to transfer the remaining unspent budgeted funds from accounts 016-02-02-07 LYO and 016-02-02-08 LYO Sponsor Expense at year end to 017-01-04-02 Senior LYO. Diane seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed.

Property and Grounds Committee: Jody Christensen reported on behalf of Property and Grounds. New lights for the Fellowship Hall are being discussed, but they want to find ones that won't require changes to the current electrical system. It appears the leaks in the kitchen have stopped for now. A list of individuals willing to provide snow removal at the church was drawn up. Budget numbers were discussed. It was noted that a bike rack made by Kyler Garsjo as a community service project had been installed out front. The sign fund needs approximately \$40,000 and rental agreements for the parsonages are still in draft form.

Pella Pantry: Nothing to report.

Outreach Committee: Natalie West reported on behalf of the Outreach Committee. She stated they had a brainstorming meeting November 11. They would like to make a New Member Handbook and are planning to meet again in January 2018. Any individuals with ideas for the handbook should contact Natalie. Kyra Hagberg will be taking the chair position, and a Table Talk will probably be given at a later date once the committee is more organized.

Stewardship Committee: Nothing to report.

Endowment Committee: Randy reported on behalf of the Endowment Committee. They met on November 21st and have sent a list of members for Council to approve. This will be done in New Business. They also discussed disbursements for the year. The next meeting will be December 19th and 6:45 am.

Personnel Committee: Diane Savage reported on behalf of the Personnel Committee. They met on December 3, 2017, to discuss compensation packages for the staff. All staff evaluations had been completed and were found to be acceptable. A 2% cost of living increase was decided for the staff (Chole', Becky, Kenny, and Bev). Janelle's compensation is still being determined. Pastor Joel requested an additional week of vacation in lieu of a wage increase, which was considered acceptable by the committee. It was also suggested that funds for continuing education for Janelle be included in the budget for 2018.

Worship & Music Committee: Pastor Joel reported on behalf of the Worship and Music Committee. They met on both November 12th and 19th. Repairs/replacements for wine flagons and communion tray covers were discussed and approved. Christmas Eve services will be at 2 pm, 4 pm and 9 pm this year. Honorariums and accompanist payments were discussed. Copyright of CCL Song Select was approved for purchase. It was noted that sheet music needs to be purchased from the Music Memorial Fund. Funds remaining in the Lilies and Poinsettia funds will be donated to the sign fund. Budget figures were discussed and forwarded to the Budget Committee. The next meeting will be in 2018.

Old Business:

Randy went through the list of Council Objectives and Goals and indicated that they have been completed, are progressing and/or are ongoing.

A draft of the congregational mailing regarding the By-Law changes was given to Council for review. It is one page, front and back. It, along with a letter, will be mailed to all members. This is to be mailed out on December 11, 2017.

The Free Store as a potential use for the South Parsonage was discussed. Randy stated that after hearing concerns from various individuals, including those on the Property and Grounds Committee, it has been decided to pass on offering the South Parsonage for the Free Store. He indicated that the store may partner with ROI in the future, but may still be looking for a location.

New Business:

Diane Savage made a motion to approve the members and terms for the Endowment Committee as presented: Randy Johnson filling the vacancy left by the resignation of J. Harry Johnson, with a term ending January 2020; John Olson, Rocky Torgerson, and Ron Steffens reappointed with terms ending in January 2021; addition of Leo Miller with term ending January 2019. Natalie West seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed.

Discussion was held regarding the request to consider changing the Constitution and By-Laws to have Council members be elected by the Congregation rather than by the drawing of lots. After much discussion regarding both sides of the matter, Council declined to make a motion to change the Constitution and By-Laws.

Based on a request presented to John and Randy, Diane Savage made a motion to donate \$1,000 from 017-01-06-01 Wednesday Community Meal to the Boys and Girls Club of Richland County in honor of Greg and Lynette Miller. April Boehler seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed.

Fund 017-02-04-02 Needy Children Christmas fund has \$360. John recommended that the funds be dispersed before year end. Various organizations were discussed. Based on John's recommendation and the discussion, Vanessa Pooch made a motion to donate \$360 from Fund 017-02-04-02 to Gifts From the Heart. Travis Rosaaen seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. The funds can be dropped off at Stockman Bank with Diane Etzel.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2018. Council members that said they would not be in attendance were Vanessa Pooch, April Boehler, and Sue Andersen.

Randy Iversen adjourned the meeting. It was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively Submitted,

Erin Anderson, Secretary