

## **Pella Council Meeting Minutes**

7:00 pm July 11, 2017

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Randy Iversen at 7:00 pm. Pastor Joel Westby led with a reading from Steadfast in Your Word and then a prayer.

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

**Visitor Concerns and Information Sharing:** David Christensen was present to ask the Council if Pella would sponsor Cub Scout Pack #143. They are currently with the Elks, but they would like to change their charter to Pella. As the charter sponsor, Pella would need to provide a place for meetings, a place for storage of their derby track and totes, and pay a \$40 per year fee for certification of the charter organization. David explained that Pella already has been providing meeting space and some storage space over the past year if the Elks was unavailable. He also stated that Pella is currently the charter organization for the Boy Scout Troop #141, but is not a Cub Scout Pack charter. David thanked Council for their time and Randy let him know that he would be in touch once Council voted on the request.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Voting on becoming the charter organization for Cub Scout Pack #143 was added to New Business. Voting on providing support for Lay Pastoral Associate (LPA) class participants was added to New Business.

**Minutes:** Vanessa Pooch made a motion to approve the June Council minutes as presented with two corrections. In the Members Present listing, the minutes state all members were in attendance with the exception of Erin Anderson who was excused and should be corrected to also include Pastor Joel Westby as excused. In the committee reports the minutes stated Sue Andersen gave the Reformation Task Force report and should be corrected to read April Boehler gave the Reformation Task Force committee report. The motion was seconded by Natalie West and was approved.

**Financial Report:** John Nelson gave the financial report. The Checking Account has a balance of \$79,070.43 and the General Fund balance is \$9,595.22. The Set Free to Serve Loan balance is currently at \$681,864.35. John noted that there is enough money in the Thrivent Money Market accounts to cover the loan payments through September. A question was raised regarding how the funds from memorials designated for Set Free to Serve were handled. John explained that the general checking account writes a check to the Set Free to Serve checking account monthly to transfer the designated funds, and those funds are then used to help make the loan payments. It was also noted that the Endowment Fund had paid for the new water softener for the parsonage. Diane Savage made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Sue Andersen seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Joel Westby gave the Pastor's Report. In addition to the typical monthly tasks, he asked Council to start thinking about some additional items which included the following: What is

the purpose for the South Parsonage and how could it aid our mission and ministry? Could we identify any potential candidates for the LPA class this fall and possibly provide support? What about our relationships with different congregations in the area? Some discussion was held on the various topics, with Council deciding to add to New Business voting on providing financial support to LPA candidates.

**Reformation 500 Task Force:** April Boehler reported on the meeting held June 27<sup>th</sup>. She said they had discussed several ideas which included showing the Rick Steve's video titled "Luther and the Reformation" and/or the movie "Luther"; an ecumenical worship service on October 29<sup>th</sup>; a special Wednesday night meal for that week; use of doors for visual representations, articles/discussion topics for the Ambassador; and possible coordination with the Stewardship Committee. April invited anyone interested to attend the next meeting, which has not been scheduled yet.

**Worship & Music Committee:** Pastor Joel reported that there were around 10-12 individuals in attendance at the SongFest.

**Call Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Christian Education Committee:** Erin Anderson reported on behalf of the Christian Education Committee. There was no June meeting, but a summary of VBS was provided, which included attendance, Bible stories, stations, expense, and potential dates and themes for next year. WBS, Confirmation and LYO start on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Pella Pantry:** No meeting, but Randy reported that the water is running at the booth, the freezers are on, and a signup sheet is out. Pastor Joel reported that a new refrigerator was being delivered on July 12<sup>th</sup>, with funds from the Wednesday night meals paying for it.

**Outreach Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Stewardship Committee:** Pastor Joel reported on the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. He stated the committee was being mindful to make sure there would be no overlapping of the Stewardship campaign and the Reformation activities. That being said, they are planning for a November program. They will be using letters, estimate of giving cards, and table talks again. Their goal is to increase the number of returned estimate of giving cards to 95 to coordinate with Luther's 95 Theses.

**Endowment Committee:** Randy reported that the committee had received a gift of \$24,420 from the Eldon Steffan's Trust on June 7, two scholarships were given for the 2017/18 school year, and the committee's purpose was reviewed. Randy noted that the total assets of the Endowment were \$702,000. He also stated that he had asked the committee to pay for the new water softener in the parsonage, which they agreed to. The funds came from their property and ground reserves.

**Personnel Committee:** Diane Savage reported that the committee had met to review concerns and items of suggestion to have the Call Committee include in the letter of call for a new pastor.

**Old Business:**

Diane stated that the constitution had been reviewed by the Synod office. Some areas of discord with the model constitution were noted. The changes are not required, but the committee will meet on July 13<sup>th</sup> to review the proposed changes, finalize the wording and return it to the Synod reviewer. Then, once it has passed the review stage, it will be presented to the congregation for approval.

Council Objectives/Goals for 2017 were discussed. These are progressing. The church-wide cleaning is set for August 27<sup>th</sup> after church. It was suggested that the Property and Grounds Committee and janitors assist with organization and areas of need. It was also suggested that smaller groups be formed and assigned to certain areas and a sign-up sheet be set out. The possibility of a pot-luck was also discussed.

There was no other Old Business.

**New Business:** Diane Savage made a motion to approve Pella becoming the charter organization for Cub Scout Pack #143 and paying the annual \$40 fee. Sue Andersen seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed.

Sue Andersen made a motion to provide financial support in the amount of \$400 (\$200/year) to Pella members who enroll in the Lay Pastoral Associate class. Vanessa Pooch seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed. A discussion will be held at the next meeting regarding potential additional support (travel costs). If anyone has suggestions for members that may be good candidates for this program they are to let Pastor Joel know.

The meeting was adjourned by Diane Savage making the motion and Natalie West seconding the motion. It was voted on and passed. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively Submitted,

Erin Anderson, Secretary