

Pella Council Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm May 9, 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, 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. Randy stated that he was hoping they'd make the June meeting. Information about their presentation had been shared by Randy at the March meeting. Randy shared a thank you from Rocky Boy for Pella's recent donation and a letter from the Montana Synod thanking Pella for its support and letting us know we are among the Top 10 of congregations for mission support.

Additions to the Agenda: Montana Synod Assembly attendance by voting members – will be added to Old Business.

Minutes: Diane Savage made a motion to approve the April Council Meeting Minutes. Travis Rosaaen seconded the motion. Motion for approval was voted on and passed.

Financial Report: John Nelson gave the financial report. The Checking Account has a balance of \$89,305.12 and the General Fund balance is \$17,719.73. The Set Free to Serve Loan balance is currently at \$695,041.87. Discussion was held regarding the loan payments for the Set Free to Serve Loan and maintaining the money market balances. John shared information he had received regarding reamortization of the loan – The interest rate would be 3.75% (which would adjust in September as the loan is on a 5 year adjustable rate), there would be 244 payments with maturity date of September 15, 2037, and the new monthly payment would be \$4,038.00. There would not be any fees for the reamortization, and there would be no penalty for additional payments (to reduce principal). Jody Christensen made a motion to proceed with the reamortization of the Set Free to Serve loan, with any additional Set Free to Serve contributions received by Pella reducing principal first. Sue Andersen seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed. John stated he would e-mail Thrivent to have them reamortize the loan. Jody Christensen then made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Diane Savage 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 preparing for a new pastor. He stated that his interim would end approximately 1 month prior to the new pastor starting and that his current contract lasts until July 31, 2018 if a new pastor is not called before then. Various Council members asked him about prior transitions he had been involved in and he shared some prior experiences. He stated he would be willing to meet with the potential new pastor if the candidate requested it during an on-site visit, but he doesn't typically meet with the new pastor. He also suggested that the potential new pastor meet with the office staff. He suggested a "Meet & Greet" and that there should be plenty of information sharing

with the congregation as the transition takes place. He said that we should be open to questions and try to ease the new pastor's entry to the community and check on his/her preferences and/or needs for the parsonage.

Pella Pantry: Travis Rosaaen reported on behalf of the Pella Pantry Committee. He stated that the Committee was going to be changing vendors for the hamburger patties. The patties would be made fresh daily, and would be slightly more than the previous frozen patties. He and Randy both stated that complaints had been made about the fat content of the old patties. There have been no changes to prices yet. Travis also said that there will be no one formally replacing Cindy Osland as head of the pie making, but said that the pie makers would be able to handle the task with Judy Sondeno and Linda Anderson ordering the supplies.

Personnel Committee: Nothing to report.

Property and Grounds Committee: No meeting has been held, but Randy stated that 4 trees will be planted (3 for the boulevard and 1 for the parsonage).

Stewardship Committee: Nothing to report.

Worship & Music Committee: Nothing to report. Next meeting is May 24th at 5 pm.

Call Committee: Randy Iversen reported on behalf of the Call Committee. He stated that several candidates are being interviewed via Skype. The Committee has started background checks on some and will notify Council if they would like personal interviews with any of the candidates (for budgeting purposes and approval of the travel expenses). Pastor Joel also wanted to remind the Council that the call is for **one** pastor.

Christian Education Committee: Erin Anderson reported on behalf of the Christian Education Committee. WBS students are collecting soap for the LWR Personal Care Kits. Last day of programs is May 17th. Janelle will hold a meeting on May 10th with 5th Graders and their parents to discuss the Confirmation program. Confirmation students are collecting toothbrushes for the LWR Personal Care Kits. Senior Recognition Sunday was April 30th. Confirmation Sunday was May 7th. On May 10th an informational meeting with the 8th graders will be held regarding the Youth Gathering. VBS dates of June 19-23 and advertising was discussed. The Campership Policy has been put on hold. Pella received 13 free books from the book fair. A meeting may be set in the fall for parents interested in their children receiving communion. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16th at 5:30pm.

Endowment Committee: Nothing to report.

Reformation 500 Task Force: Nothing to report. Meeting on May 24th at 6 pm.

Outreach Committee: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Nothing to report on as far as the Bylaws but Diane stated she hoped to have the Policy Handbook at the June meeting for Council to review.

Council Objectives/Goals for 2017 were discussed. A meeting for the planning of the church wide recognition of Reformation 500 will be on May 24th at 6pm. Anyone with ideas should share them with Pastor Joel. Diane did share that she had watched a PBS special on the Reformation that she thought other members may be interested in. Vanessa suggested that we should be spreading the word about the church wide cleaning in August. Randy said he would put a blurb in the Ambassador. The Membership and Outreach Committee was discussed. Council Members shared names of individuals that they thought may be interested in serving on the Committee. A quick review of the names was done, and it was noted that perhaps some males and/or couples should be added to the list. Council members were asked to contact their suggestions and ask them if they'd be interested in serving on the Committee. If interested, names are to be forwarded to Natalie so that a meeting can be set up. Natalie volunteered to write a blurb for the Ambassador about the Committee and info on it will also be added to the announcements on Sunday so others who may be interested would know about the Committee.

The Montana Synod Assembly on June 2-4 in Great Falls was discussed. No voting members have registered to attend as of today. Early registration ends on May 15th. Registration, hotel, and transportation costs are paid for by Pella. The Synod recommends, but doesn't require, that the 2 voting members of the churches that attend the Assembly are 1 male and 1 female. Sue and Diane will consider attending if no other members wish to attend. Pastor Joel will mention to congregation. Council asked Pastor Joel to check in to whether Pella could register and pay by the 15th, with no names on the forms (simply Pella Member 1 and Pella Member 2).

There was no other Old Business.

New Business: Nothing to report.

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

Respectively Submitted,

Erin Anderson, Secretary