

Pella Council Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm November 7, 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.

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

Visitor Concerns and Information Sharing: Cara Nelson representing the Free Store was welcomed. Cara explained that the Free Store currently located at Lonsdale Methodist Church in Sidney is looking for a new location. The store needs to be relocated by January 1, 2018. She discussed that Pastor Melanie had toured the South Parsonage and suggested that this might be a possible new location for the store. Cara stated that they had looked at a few other spots, but they don't fill the space requirement needed. Cara said that they need at least 4 rooms (one for adult items, one for kids' items, one for miscellaneous items, and one for sorting). She went on to explain that currently, donations are dropped off at Lonsdale, the store is open two Saturdays a month from 10 am to 12 pm, that there is a volunteer group that staffs the store and that a lot of families are served (approximately 20-30 on an average Saturday), and that they have been in operation for almost 4 years. The items are free and no paperwork is kept on donations, nor recipients. She also stated that some of the donated items are bagged up and taken to the Mission and Women's Shelter in Billings. They also have a back to school shopping day, and she said that 65 families were served in 2017. Lonsdale does have a separate account for any monetary donations that the store receives, although Cara noted that these are very minimal. With that money, they purchase items not donated (i.e. socks/underwear) when contacted by either the hospital or a social worker for such items. Cara stated again that there is a volunteer group in place that would continue to staff the store, but others can be added. Any upkeep or cleaning would be done by the volunteers. She also noted that the donations are not pre-washed by the store volunteers before distribution and that some items are either put into "rag bags" or separated for quilting projects. She also noted that they have shelving and racks. It was discussed that if the store was relocated to the South Parsonage that a new donation box/location would need to be established. Cara was thanked for her presentation and further discussion by Council on the request was added to Old Business (under South Parsonage).

Other visitors in attendance included Year 2 and Year 3 Confirmation students (Blake Benson, Emma Doty, Sarah Karanjai, Ryan McGinnis, Olivia Schoepp, Daisy Snow, Wes VanHook, and Nathan Wilhelm), Confirmation Guides (Jennifer Doty and Patti McGinnis), and Janelle Lamb. Janelle explained that the students had a requirement to attend one committee meeting, one Annual Meeting, and one Council Meeting as part of the Confirmation curriculum. Council members introduced themselves, and Diane Savage explained the process for nomination of Council members.

As part of information sharing, Randy shared a Thank You card from the Garfield County Fire Foundation (church members donated money to the fire relief effort). He also shared donation requests from Energy Share Montana and Freedom in Christ Ministry. It was noted that Pella already donates to Freedom in Christ. Pella also received an invitation to the Sidney Chamber of Commerce's Annual Banquet.

Additions/Alterations to the Agenda: As stated above, the Free Store relocation was added to Old Business (under South Parsonage). Sue Andersen also requested that the Nominating Committee be added to New Business.

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

Financial Report: John Nelson gave the financial report. The Checking Account has a balance of \$127,304.74 and the General Fund balance is \$44,240.02. The Set Free to Serve Loan balance is currently at \$610,947.08. John noted that a principal payment of \$14,300 was going to be applied, so the loan balance would be below \$600,000. Randy brought up the printer contract with Marco that had just been received. He stated that currently Pella prepays for a number of color and black and white copies through an annual contract. If that amount is exceeded in a contract year, then an additional payment is required. He also noted that there is no longer a local Marco dealer. The new base contract has increased by approximately \$800 and would be \$6,400 for a year. Randy stated he will get bids/quotes for either purchasing a printer or leasing from Boss. The renewal on the Marco is due on November 14th, so once Randy receives the information, he will contact the Council members.

It was noted that the approved donations from the October Council minutes were not relayed to Becky, and they were not paid. After Randy and John gave some discussion on the proposed donations, Sue Andersen made a motion to approve payments totaling \$15,986 as follows: ELCA World Hunger - \$1,925; ELCA Synod Benevolence - \$11,000; Rocky Boy - \$1,666.38; and Global Missions - \$1,394.62. Erin Anderson seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and passed.

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel gave a summary of his activities since October 5th, as well as his upcoming schedule. He mentioned that staff reviews for a few employees were still needed. A summary of building uses, upcoming building uses, and worship attendance was also reviewed. He also reminded Council that there is less than 9 months left on his contract (ends July 31, 2018). He then posed the question of "What does "Senior" Pastor mean to you?" Much discussion was held regarding the inference that could be taken from that term and whether it misleads congregational members, etc. Pastoral job descriptions were reviewed along with this discussion. It was suggested that perhaps the congregation should be made aware that although Pella is looking for a "Senior" Pastor, that only one pastor is being sought at this time. Randy stated that he would add this to his Table Talks to inform the congregation that Pella is currently seeking only one pastor that would fill the position of a Senior Pastor, and that no Associate Pastor is being sought at this time.

Reformation 500 Task Force: No meeting was held, but Pastor Joel stated they may have a wrap-up meeting in the future.

Worship & Music Committee: Nothing to report. Next meeting is Sunday, November 12th at 10:30 am.

Call Committee: Randy reported that the Committee Skyped with another potential candidate. He indicated that they requested a church visit, but it would probably be after Christmas.

Christian Education Committee: Erin Anderson reported on behalf of the Christian Education Committee. 3rd Grade Bibles were presented to 13 children on October 1st, and approximately 30 WBS children sang. December 20th is scheduled for the Christmas program and holiday meal. A WBS offering disbursement was discussed, but it was noted that we would like the kids to be involved in the process. This was tabled until the next meeting. Year 3 Confirmation students have been made aware of the requirements that each still has to complete in order to be confirmed in May. October LYO events were outlined, along with a potential Cell Phone policy. Adult educational activities were discussed, along with the various Reformation 500 activities. Advent activities are slated for December 3, 10, 17 & 24. Donated rectangular tables have been received and are working well. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 21 at 5:30 pm.

Property and Grounds Committee: Randy noted that the sewer issue has been fixed and the cost was \$2,000.

Pella Pantry: Travis Rosaaen reported on behalf of Pella Pantry. The 2017 profit was \$10,316.71. Part of the proceeds will be put in the Pella Pantry Repair Fund. The Pella Quilters indicated that they do not need any funds this year; so instead, the Committee is choosing to use those funds, along with some from the repair fund to purchase a pie shell roller. The Pella Pantry Committee recommended that \$8,000 from the 2017 proceeds be distributed as follows: Set Free to Serve - \$1,500; LYO - \$1,000; Boys & Girls Club - \$1,000; Richland County Food Bank - \$1,500; Council Discretion - \$500; Richland Opportunities, Inc. - \$600; Domestic Abuse - \$600; Matthew House - \$600; and Upper Missouri Ministries - \$700. Jodi Christensen made a motion to distribute \$8,000 of the Pella Pantry proceeds as recommended by the Committee. April Boehler seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed.

Outreach Committee: Randy read an e-mail from Natalie. She stated that she has a brainstorming group formed and would like to hold a meeting on November 15th after the meal. She is working on confirming the date with the other individuals and one item she plans to discuss is a New Member Handbook.

Stewardship Committee: Stewardship letters have been mailed to members of the congregation.

Endowment Committee: Nothing to report. The next meeting is scheduled for November 21st at 6:45 am.

Personnel Committee: No meeting has been held.

Old Business:

Randy went through the list of Council Objectives and Goals and indicated that they are progressing and ongoing.

The Free Store as a potential use for the South Parsonage was discussed. Council members voiced their concerns with having the store in the Parsonage. Some of those concerns were: Drop off spot; liability/insurance costs; use of basement in the house; Pella's representation; and preparation of an agreement between Pella and the Free Store. The short time frame for a decision was noted. Randy stated he would contact the insurance agency to determine the effects on the premium and what would be covered. Travis Rosaaen made a motion to allow the Executive Committee to make the final decision on the Free Store's usage of the South Parsonage pending a letter of agreement between the two parties and information from insurance. Jodi Christensen seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed.

New Business: The installation of additional phones at the church were discussed. Janelle Lamb stated that Pella had purchased 4 additional phones at the time the addition was built, but they had never been installed. She said that one is for the basement, one for the library, and one for the work room. Tyler Radke has given Pella a quote of \$475 to install these phones (along with a cordless phone for the office). Jodi Christensen made a motion to approve the payment of the phone installation and cordless phone if the cost is less than \$500. Sue Andersen seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed.

Informing the congregation of the Constitutional and Bylaw changes was discussed. It was noted that these will both be voted on at the Annual Meeting in January 2018. There is no obligation to mail out the Constitutional changes, but they will be made available prior to the meeting for those wishing to review. The proposed Bylaw changes must be mailed to voting members of the congregation 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting. Discussion was held as to how the mailing would be done, what would be included in the mailing, what defines a voting member, and what other means of notification/awareness could be used. It was suggested that Diane write an blurb for the Ambassador to make the congregation aware of both items. A potential mailing list of voting members will be brought to the next Council meeting, along with what would be included in the mailing. Randy will also include this topic in his Table Talks.

Sue Andersen then requested a clarification of who the current members of the Nominating Committee were. The Bylaws were reviewed to determine the composition of the Nominating Committee. The nominees from the January 2017 Annual Meeting report were reviewed. It was determined that the 6 members of the Committee for 2017 are

Craig Johnson, Greg Miller & Mark Olson (outgoing Council members); Susan Iversen; Jason Lamb; and Sue Andersen (new Council Vice President).

The meeting was adjourned by Jody Christensen making the motion and Travis Rosaaen seconding the motion. It was voted on and passed. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively Submitted,

Erin Anderson, Secretary