

Pella Council Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Randy Iversen at 7:00pm. Pastor Joel Westby led with a reading from Steadfast in Your Word, based on Romans and I Corinthians.

Members Present: Sue Andersen, April Boehler, Jody Christensen, Randy Iversen, John Nelson, Travis Rosaaen, Diane Savage, and Pastor Joel Westby.

Visitor Concerns and Information Sharing: Randy read a letter from Bishop Jessica Christ representing the Executive Committee of the Montana Synod. The letter stated that mission support was low this summer. It went on to inform us of the many works of the Synod, including campus ministry, Lutheran Social Services, Intermountain, NRIT, Luther Seminary & PLT's, Concordia College and PLU, Our Savior's Rocky Boy, Freedom in Christ, prison ministry, Spirit of Life, MT Ass. of Christians, and Wyoming Ass. of Churches to name a few. The Synod is looking for additional support so they can continue their mission work. It was noted in the letter that August 2017 has been the lowest giving month since 2010. "here We Are" packets can be used to support their mission. Next Randy shared a letter from Friends of Christian Radio based out of Glendive. They are seeking support from area churches.

Minutes: Jodi Christensen made a motion to approve the September 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 \$105,213.36 and the general fund balance is \$9,783.21. The Set Free to Serve loan balance is currently at \$645,098.02. John reported, as per the financial standings printout, that our General Fund balance exceeds the normal balance at this time by \$8,325.32. John noted that Pella is behind in our payment to Synod Benevolence and that we sent no money to the Synod in September. John explained that we have \$3,000 budgeted for World Hunger and as of September 2017 Pella has received \$3,225 in contributions designated specifically for World Hunger. We have contributed \$1,500 so far, leaving a balance of \$1,725. John also explained that beyond the \$7,000 budgeted for mission support, \$3,207 has been contributed, specifically designated for mission support. We have donated \$646.32 thus far, leaving an earmarked amount remaining of \$646.32. He recommended we pay the remaining balances noted above to World Hunger and Mission Support. He further recommended that we use the remaining \$5,954 to support Rocky Boy and ELCA; specifically, \$500 to Rocky Boy and \$5,454 to ELCA. Diane Savage made a motion, seconded by Jodi Christensen to appropriate said funds, as recommended by John. Motion passed. Discussion was held regarding Pella's money market account and the building fund balance. Explanation follows in new business.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel gave a summary of his activities for September. He noted that staff reviews for Chole Butler and Janelle Lamb have been completed. Reviews for Kenny Vannatta and Becky Reidle will be scheduled soon.

Reformation 500 Task Force: Discussion about the activities took place. There have been many positive comments. 26 people viewed the Luther movie shown on October 8, 21 during the morning showing and 5 the evening showing.

Worship and Music Committee: nothing to report

Call Committee: nothing to report

Christian Education Committee: a typed report was included in the council packet. Discussion items included that the WBS is showing good numbers, the average number up approximately 20 from last year; donations of rectangular tables, a fire-proof safe, and a file cabinet have been made; talked about the various adult education offerings at the church.

Property and Grounds: nothing to report from the committee but Randy shared a few items. The roof in the kitchen is leaking, near a vent. They thought they had fixed the problem last year but it is leaking again. They are looking into it. Jason from Prairie Electric was at the church to look at the lights and fans in the fellowship hall. Also checked were the LED lights behind the stained glass window in the balcony of the church. Some are partially burned out and will be replaced. No estimate on the sewer yet.

Pella Pantry: Travis Rosaaen reported that there is roughly \$10,000 in the account. The committee will be meeting again October 5 to decide how to disperse approximately \$9,000.

Outreach Committee: Natalie, Randy, and Pastor Joel met to discuss what direction should be taken when Natalie calls the first meeting of the newly re-established committee. She will schedule that meeting soon.

Stewardship Committee: Pastor Joel reported that the committee met and discussed plans for this year's stewardship campaign. There will be information in the next newsletter. Their emphasis will take place during the first three Sundays of November. Estimate of Giving cards will be given out. They plan to somehow continue the "door" theme started with the Reformation 500 Taskforce. They set a goal of receiving 95 "giving" cards back this year, hoping to get people who have never participated to fill them out and turn them in. They will have designated spots for people to return their cards this year rather than confining that practice to just one Sunday during the service, as has been past practice. They also plan to include some table talks with this year's campaign.

Endowment Committee: nothing to report as the meeting that had been scheduled for September 19 was postponed and rescheduled for November 21.

Personnel Committee: nothing to report

Old Business: Council Objectives/Goals for 2017 have all been addressed and work is ongoing.

Sue reported that she left a message for Rick Haraldson and spoke with Randy Johnson about the use of the south parsonage by the hospital. Randy thought it sounded like a good idea and would consult with other board members. Sue plans to speak with Rick and report back at the next council meeting.

Randy and Pastor Joel met with Jason Nelson, the Savage Council President. They discussed the possibility of a pastoral and educational partnership. Jason explained that they have a prospective pastoral candidate at this time. However, if things don't work out, Savage is open to the idea. Savage students are attending Pella's WBS on Wednesdays.

New Business: Randy shared information about the Friends of Reynolds (FOR) program. Discussion was held. No motion to apply for the program was made.

The Pella Building Note interest rate and monthly payment along with the money market was discussed. It was noted that \$23,544 will remain in the restricted money market account and the remaining amount of \$32,235.38 was transferred to the principle reduction.

Discussion regarding the Nominating Committee took place. Randy read the purpose of the committee to the council, which is to nominate one or more candidates to fill each vacancy of the council and to contact them personally to ensure they are aware of what their duties would entail if their name were drawn to serve on the council. Randy read the minutes from last December's Nominating Committee meeting. He noted that they incorrectly formed the committee last year so wanted to be sure it was done properly this year. Diane, April, and Randy are completing their three year terms this year. This year's committee will be comprised of the following: Vice President: Sue Andersen, past council members: Mark Olson, Greg Miller, and Craig Johnson, and volunteers approved by the congregation are Susan Iversen and Jason Lamb. Sue will call a meeting of the Nominating Committee in November. The last Sunday of January 2018 will be the Annual Meeting. Pastor Joel asked if any outgoing council members could serve another term if they were willing. Randy noted that he looked in the bylaws and found nothing addressing this.

The next meeting of the council is scheduled for November 7 at 7:00pm.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jodi Christensen, seconded by Diane Savage, and approved. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Andersen, Vice President filling in for Secretary Erin Anderson