

Pella Council Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm September 5, 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, Natalie West, and Pastor Joel Westby. Vanessa Pooch's absence was excused.

Visitor Concerns and Information Sharing: Randy shared a thank you from Rocky Boy for our support. Randy also indicated they had received correspondence from Portico Insurance regarding benefits and rate increases for 2018. He suggested that perhaps Council should review the policy/benefit information at renewal time.

Additions/Alterations to the Agenda: None.

Minutes: Diane Savage made a motion to approve the August Council minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Sue Andersen and was approved.

Financial Report: John Nelson gave the financial report. The Checking Account has a balance of \$98,263.32 and the General Fund balance is \$12,417.27. The Set Free to Serve Loan balance is currently at \$668,459.09. Some discussion was held regarding a few of the expenses during August (for replacement of the compressor on the fire suppression system and window pane replacement). Randy indicated that he had not received any further information on the sewer line problem. He is waiting for Hansen Independent to get back to him with what the problem could be – it is thought that the sewer line from the new addition extends into the main city sewer line causing issues when the City wants to flush the line. Randy will hold a Table Talk on September 10th after worship to update those interested on the financial position of the church. Sue Andersen 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 gave a summary of his activities since August 4. He mentioned that staff reviews were upcoming along with the Reformation 500 activities. A summary of building uses, upcoming building uses, and worship attendance was also reviewed.

Reformation 500 Task Force: Pastor Joel reported on the meeting held August 24th. He said that activities will kick off on September 17th. A "door" theme is being used and LYO is helping with some interactive door displays. He will also have door prizes during fellowship hour following church and will lead a "door stopper" book discussion on Luther's 95 Theses. On October 18th, a German themed meal will be served and the 2003 movie "Luther and the Reformation" will be shown for those interested. A Lutheran-Catholic prayer service with St. Matthew's Church will be held on October 22nd at St. Matthew's and Pella will have a Reformation Sunday worship on October 29th. Pastor Joel stated that they plan to have dialog sermons during Sunday worship from September 17th – October 29th, which will include "interviews" with Martin Luther. The next meeting is on September 14th at 4:00 pm.

Worship & Music Committee: Minutes from the meeting held on August 20th were reviewed. Piano tuning/tuners were discussed. It was suggested that the committee add to their minutes when tuning is performed and who authorized them. Pastor Joel stated there is a schedule for the piano tuning and only a certified piano tuner is allowed. The scheduling will be handled through the office and the committee will be notified and will decide whether the tuning is needed or not. The committee also discussed the possibility of accompanists dropping out an entire verse if the song is a familiar one. Choir and handbell practices are starting up on September 10th. Honorariums and budget planning were also discussed.

Call Committee: Nothing to report.

Christian Education Committee: Erin Anderson reported on behalf of the Christian Education Committee. All teacher/guide positions for the upcoming WBS/Confirmation year have been filled. Activities start September 6th. 3rd Grade Bibles will be presented on October 1st. December 20th is scheduled for the Christmas program and holiday meal. We will be welcoming 3 confirmation students from Savage. The ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston next summer is still on and early registration starts September 15th. Senior Recognition Sunday is scheduled for April 29th. It was suggested that perhaps Pella should do something during the Chamber's Christmas Stroll (hoping an Outreach Committee could handle this, with support from CE). The next meeting is September 19th at 5:30 pm.

Property and Grounds Committee: Nothing to report.

Pella Pantry: Nothing to report. The next meeting is September 10th at 10:30 am.

Outreach Committee: Natalie stated she hopes to get a meeting organized for September.

Stewardship Committee: Nothing to report.

Endowment Committee: Nothing to report. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19th at 6:45 am.

Personnel Committee: No meeting has been held. Discussion regarding the number of janitors and cleaning time was held. The church-wide cleaning was also discussed, and it was suggested that perhaps next year each Council member head up an area for cleaning and organize with the janitorial staff.

Old Business:

Diane Savage reported that the Handbook has been voted on and passed and is being typed. She stated the committee had received the o.k. from the Synod regarding the changes to the Constitution. Both the Constitution and Bylaws are ready for presentation and approval by the Congregation at the next Congregational meeting (January 2018). It was suggested that perhaps in December a presentation explaining the Constitutional changes could be held for those interested.

Council Objectives/Goals for 2017 were discussed. All objectives are progressing and have been discussed earlier in the meeting. There was no other Old Business.

New Business: Randy asked for suggestions on how the South Parsonage could be used as it has been sitting vacant for several years. It is checked at least monthly. It was suggested that perhaps LYO could use it for some of their activities. It was also suggested that the hospital might be interested in using it for out of town individuals that have family members in the hospital. Sue said she would contact Rick Haraldson and see if they would be interested.

Randy also brought up a potential pastoral and educational partnership with Savage. Pastor Joel said that this could open the option of calling a clergy couple with one spouse serving Pella and the other spouse serving the Savage/Skaar congregations. As mentioned earlier, three Savage students will be attending confirmation at Pella this year. Randy said he was trying to arrange a meeting with Jason Nelson, the Council president in Savage, to discuss needs.

The meeting was adjourned by Diane Savage 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