

With Christ We Welcome, Nurture, Equip and Serve

PELLA CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES

April 11, 2023

COUNCIL MEMBERS in attendance were Tim Averett, David Christensen, JC Youngquist, James Carlsen, Kelly Johnson, Darla Dahl, Linda Wick, and Kaci Dean. Absent: Bec Kallevig. Non-voting members Lance Averett (Treas.), Janelle Lamb (Youth Dir.) and Pastor Barb Haugerud. Visitors were Hitch and Joanna Horsburgh.

Meeting was called to order by Pres. Tim Averett. Opening Prayer/Devotion was conducted by Pastor Barb.

VISITOR CONCERNS & INFORMATION SHARING: Council members shared with one another something they wish they could/would be brave enough to do/try.

COUNCIL REPORTS

The minutes of the March 2023 council meeting were reviewed and approved with an amendment stating James Carlsen was present.

The Financial Report was read by Treasurer Lance Averett. The current month income is \$26,963.92 with expenses at \$29,747.99. Our checking account balance increased from \$98,125.29 as of Feb. 28 to \$141,407.85 on March 31 in large part to a deposit from Church Mutual Insurance for the sign replacement costs. A quarterly report of dedicated accounts was distributed and reviewed. The report will be filed for audit.

The Pastor's written report was distributed and reviewed by the council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A written report for the **Christian Education Committee** was provided, which met on March 28th.

A written report for the **Property & Grounds Committee** was provided. Mark Olson will serve as the new chair of this committee. This committee met on April 4, 2023. There is no new information in regards to installation of sand points. It was reported that the main parsonage has had back up sewer issues. The committee is seeking help to address this issue with a few different sources. The council discussed possibly updating the doors closest to the kitchen to handicap entrances. However, this would involve redoing the parking lot to appropriate standards for a handicapped entrance. At this time, with the concern with the sewer issue and potential cost, the council feels we must wait to see where our budget allows this type of work.

A discussion was also held regarding the pavilion project idea that Pastor Audrey had, and began a fund for after her mother's passing. All her funeral offerings were given to use for this cause. Additionally, other people contributed to this cause as well. The council would like to hold off on this project, as we are uncertain this is the best use of the field where this would be placed. If we do not proceed with this project, we would plan to discuss with Pastor Audrey what to do with her mother's donations. Also, we would discuss this with the other people who contributed.

The **Endowment Committee** provided a written report. They met on March 14th. Of note, the Pella scholarship applications for students attending Lutheran colleges are due June 1st.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteers were solicited to monitor locked doors at Pella. Kelly will take May. Darla Dahl, James Carlsen, and JC Youngquist will come up with a plan to cover June and July. Linda Wick will cover August. We will have a “group text” for council members for this purpose, should we need coverage during our month should we be unable to lock church.

President Tim has worked with the synod to get the call process moving for Pastor Barb. Pastor’s current contract is complete at the end of May, so the goal is to complete all needed steps for this point. Should we need to meet via email or in person in addition to regular monthly meetings, Tim will let us know.

President Tim reported that the digital sign “ruins” have been removed and all is moving forward to replace the sign at a cost of \$1,000. Linda Wick reported that a concern regarding future safety of the sign was brought to her attention. It was suggested perhaps we place large decorative boulders in front of the sign so future situations would potentially protect the sign.

Additionally, President Tim reported that our new insurance agents have re-evaluated our coverage, and our facilities were very under insured. Adjustments are being made to ensure we have all the needed coverage.

NEW BUSINESS

It was moved and seconded, and the motion passed to accept all names presented for the 2023 confirmation students as presented in the education committee report.

Pastor Barb was commended for a successful Lent and Easter season, with good attendance and creative sermons.

The EMBC camp submitted a request to Pella for a donation to their camp to help fund a counselor, approximately \$500. Some of our Pella students do attend this camp, but it isn’t a camp sponsored or traditionally financially supported by Pella. Kelly Johnson shared that this might be an area that the Pella Pantry could donate to, as that money is generated from community. The council has tabled this topic at this time and Tim will look into this in more detail.

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

The next regular Council meeting will be on May 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Johnson
Secretary