

Cross of Christ Church Council

Minutes of May 18, 2021 Meeting

Officers	P	A	Pastors	P	A	Cabinets	P	A	Cabinets	P	A
Eileen Hegland (<i>President</i>)	X		Linda McPeak	X		Amy Kulas (<i>Finance</i>)	X		Krin Abraham (<i>Personnel</i>)		X
Jill Hahn (<i>Vice President</i>)	X					Jessica Brand (<i>Youth & Family</i>)	X		Kathy Olson (<i>Worship & Music</i>)	X	
Paige Markegard (<i>Secretary</i>)	X					Keith Herek (<i>C of C Building</i>)		X	Alysia Woodard (<i>Education</i>)		X
Patrick Forsyth (<i>Fin Admin</i>)	X					Wayne Runningen (<i>Stone Church Bldg</i>)	X		Vacant (<i>Stewardship</i>)		X
Amanda Langheinrich (<i>Financial Sec</i>)		X				Trent Edwards (<i>C of C Grounds</i>)	X		Sue Ferris (<i>W/ELCA</i>)	X	
						Holly Westby (<i>Evangelism</i>)	X		Vacant (<i>Youth Rep</i>)		

President Eileen Hegland called the Zoom video conference meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Pr. Linda's devotion was in relation to the scripture for this coming Sunday, which is Pentecost Sunday. What is something you wish you can end in the world?

1. REPORTS:

a. Senior Pastor's Report for March 16, 2021 – April 20, 2021

i. Membership Activity:

1. Funerals/Memorial Services: Steven Bergsgaard (graveside) April 17, 2021
2. Baptism:

ii. Pastoral Acts (these are not all-inclusive, but intended to give the council a good deal of guidance):

1. Visitations, sharing word and sacrament have resumed with extra care and caution.
2. Online and phone Pastoral Care - Ongoing exchanges with youth, individuals and families who desire to be in conversation about how God is at work in their lives through health, healing, grief, faith questions, doubts, challenges, and formation.
3. Weekly staff meeting with Office Admin, Children's Ministry Director and Custodians.
4. Worship & Music

- a. Lenten Midweek Wednesday Worship continued through March 24th
- b. Drive thru communion Sunday, March 21, April 4, and April 18. Will continue only through May 16th.
- c. Holy Week Worship

- i. March 28th Palm Sunday (82 attendance in-person) with palm procession outside youth and adults, special animal guest, Tootsie Roll, Natalie Skifton's rabbit.
- ii. Maundy Thursday worship April 1 (92 attendance in-person)—celebration first communion for 15 students - 5th Grade: Clayton Brand, Atreyu Florin, Karlee Frauenkron, Neveah Seekamp, Jason Ulmen, and Eliza Woodard and 6th Grade: Isaac Brand, Lilly Coil, Arlo Hunt, Elijah Hunt, Lydia Knutson, Maren Kulas, Madasen Lynch, Claire Reay, and Kyleigh Seekamp.
- iii. Good Friday service of light and darkness (18 attendance in-person)

- iv. Holy Saturday Easter decorating April 3
- v. Easter Services; 7 am (75 attendance in-person) and 10:15 am (67 attendance in-person)
- d. Upcoming: Rural Life Sunday, April 25, 2021, Sunday School finale May 16th, Affirmation of Baptism Confirmation Sunday May 23rd, Graduating Senior Recognition Sunday June 6. Summer worship schedule including the Stone Church at 8:30 am and in town 10:15 begins Sunday, May 30th.
- e. Join us this summer for “Worship in the Garden” two Wednesdays a month at 5:45pm. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Weather permitting if weather interferes the contingency plan is to worship inside. These relaxed services will feature a variety of outdoor themes with Holy Communion and allow you to get in the open air to worship God in a beautiful setting. They will also provide an opportunity in those weeks when you are traveling or committed elsewhere on the weekend(s) to stay connected in prayer and community here. June 9th, June 23rd, July 7th, July 21st, August 4th, August 18th
- f. Online Zoom Coffee Hour fellowship Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. Will continue at this time.
- 5. Confirmation in-person – 3/24 Forgiveness and Healing, 4/7 World Religions, and 4/14 Christian Churches. Proceeding with preparations for Jordon Beeman, Cade Christensen, and Ethan Frauenkron to affirm their baptism (Confirmation) on May 23 10:15 am worship service.
- 6. Weekly Church time, every Thursday at 10 at Heritage Court in person.
- 7. Weekly church time at VVHCR Wednesdays at 10 am for in-person worship/church time.
- 8. Meet Up and Eat Up to resume Mondays and Wednesdays beginning June 7, 2021. Planning meeting Thursday, April 29 @ 6:30 pm
- iii. Participation in the ministry of our larger Church and Community:
 - 1. Participated by invitation to be a stakeholder, in the Houston School District Superintendent search. Participated by observing and providing feedback on the final round of 3 Superintendent candidates. Grateful for the privilege.
 - 2. Board meeting of the Houston Area Community Foundation Tuesday, April 6.
- iv. Personal:
 - 1. Vacation April 9-12 with Sunday off April 11th online only. Worship provided by SEMN Synod and Good Earth Village.

Respectfully submitted by Pastor, Linda McPeak

b. President’s Report:

- i. Eileen did not have a report this month.

c. Secretary’s Report:

- i. *Jill Hahn made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2021 meeting. Holly Westby seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

d. Financial Administrator’s Report:

- i. April Results:
 - 1. We came in slightly better than budget for the month. We budgeted for a deficit of \$1,926; the actual deficit was \$1,133.
 - 2. Giving was on budget. Total revenue, which includes other revenue such as weddings, was below budget by \$555. Expenses were \$1,346 below budget.
 - 3. Year to date, our deficit is \$5,353 vs. a budgeted deficit of \$3,238.
 - 4. As of today, May 18, 2021, the PPP loan has been forgiven. Pr. Linda asked that we add this to our agenda for the June meeting.

- ii. *Amy Kulas made a motion to approve the April financial administrators report. Pastor Linda seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

e. **Financial Secretary's Report:**

- i. Amanda Absent. Financial report is included in council packet.

2. **CABINET REPORTS:**

a. **Education:**

- i. Alysia absent. No report.

b. **Evangelism:**

- i. Holly just wanted to share that she has been reaching out to some of our new online worship followers on Facebook and greeting them.

c. **Finance:**

- i. Amy had nothing to report.

d. **Personnel:**

- i. Krin absent. No report.

e. **C of C Grounds:**

- i. Trent hasn't planned a date for the spring cleanup yet. Do we still want to mulch and do cleanup? The mulch should still be done. Trent anticipates that the mulch will cost approximately \$350. We just need some volunteers to weed and several people to bring wheelbarrows. The council all agreed we should move forward with the plan. The date we decided on is June 12th at 10am. Pr. Linda will let Amanda know the details to put in the Echoes and Whisperers newsletter. Amy Kulas mentioned that we should encourage the kids to help out as well. Jess will put out a post to the youth and family Facebook group. They have said that they want to help. This is great!
- ii. Stone church cleanup is scheduled for May 26th at 9am. Wayne mentioned that if we have some leftover mulch, they could use some in the front corners of the church.
- iii. The weed and feed treatment has been completed on the lawn.

f. **C of C Building:**

- i. Keith absent. Report below:
 - 1. One of the furnace units needs replacing. Due to the age of the unit, it looks like parts are not available to repair it. We received a bid from Chris Schroeder of \$4900 to replace the unit. This includes parts and labor.
 - a. See New Business for further discussion.
 - 2. I picked up some samples of tile from Carpet One to replace the soiled carpet in the Fellowship hall in front of the kitchen. Once we determine which tile we like best, we'll get Carpet One to give an estimate for the work.
 - 3. The outdoor fire pit is in rough shape and needs replacing. Looking at putting in a fire ring in its place.
Thank you,
Keith
- ii. Pr. Linda also wanted to highlight that we are planning on purchasing a fireproof safe for the office administrator's office to keep historical documents in. Amanda has found several options and has been working with the property's cabinet and Eileen on what our best option is. The executive committee decided that we should go ahead with this as it's important to keep these documents safe. We don't need a motion from the council. This is a small cost item, and it can come out of the regular budget. Pr. Linda will let Amanda know to order it when she's back from vacation.

g. **Stone Church:**

- i. Wayne had nothing to report.

h. **Stewardship & Missions:**

- i. Vacant position.

i. **Worship & Music:**

- i. Kathy wanted to ask how we will be serving communion in June at the Stone Church? Pr. Linda said that the plan is to prepare the communion kits that we have used for the drive

thru communion out there for ease of use. This may change later in the summer. Pr. Linda has already discussed with Twyla Thorson. Kathy will get in touch with her to coordinate.

j. Youth & Family:

i. Jessica's report is below:

1. We are looking for a few more members to join and make a cabinet for Youth and Family to share the load of planning and executing events for the kids. If you know anyone that would be willing to meet once a month/as needed to discuss and help at events that would be great!
2. As of this report we have 15 youth and their family members signed up to go to the Logger's game on Sunday, June 20th.
3. Club 56 and a few ladies from WELCA came together April 28th and made May Day baskets that were handed out. Great big thank you to WELCA for coming and sharing what you do as an organization with the 5th and 6th graders!
4. Preliminary discussion about having a campout for kids in Club 56 and confirmation in July. Date and location TBD. Locations discussed between Mary, Club 56 members and myself included, here at CoC, Stone Church or at the Houston Nature Center. This would be a one night camp for all. Club 56 would do their thing and the older kids would do their own thing.
 - a. *Nature Center Info-Walk-in tent camping is available at the Trailhead Park! We have ten tent campsites, each with their own shade tree, fire ring and picnic table. The pavilion (appr. 32' x 24') can be reserved/rented or used on a first-come-first-served basis. The pavilion is a place to sit, rest, eat, and does have electricity available.*
 - b. *There is a porta-potty located near the Campground. The Nature Center facility has full bathrooms with showers.*
 - c. *Sites are just \$10 a night Sunday - Thursday and \$15 a night Friday & Saturday call 507-896-4668 or email nature@houstonmn.us for reservations today, walk- ins also welcome!*

Submitted by,
Jess Brand

5. Jess wanted to add that Heather Ray and Stacey Steinfeldt have said that they will join the youth and family cabinet.

ii. Mary Jore also submitted a report regarding VBS and Sunday School:

1. VBS dates are set...
 - a. Aug 2,3,4,5 and a Grand Finale Worship Sunday August 8. Kids arrive at 9:15 and prep for worship at 10:15.
2. Year end wrap up with Club 56 and SS.
 - a. Ice cream treats after worship on Sunday May 16 for the Sunday School kids.
 - b. These kids raised over 50 dollars in their weekly collections, and are working on deciding which Good Gifts they will buy through that program. Hoping for a boost on that offering after they sing in on May 16.
3. Club 56 has a celebration party Wednesday May 12. These kids are asking to gather during the summer. It is unclear if this is sincere or if they just have enjoyed this spring and are unaware of how busy summer gets. So I'm working with Jessica and PS Linda to coordinate at least one time in June July and August to be available to any middle school kids on Wednesday evenings. We are floating some ideas for this summer time connections, many variables in this process. I'm happy to inform you when or if we settle on dates...

4. Working with Jim and Shelley on a walk back in time , Sunday School throw back lesson. We have settled on Sunday August 29, this will be a family friendly interactive hour hosted at the Stone Church. Details to follow.
5. Sandy Erickson has graciously agreed to be my interim support
6. Thank you for trusting me with this opportunity to keep children wanting to be here to develop their Christian Faith.

Submitted by:
mjore

k. W/ELCA:

- i. Susan didn't have anything to report.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. God's Work, Our Hands

- i. This is technically set for Sunday, September 12th. We don't necessarily have to do it on this day, but it's generally the day that the SEMN Synod does it. The council should think of ideas for things for us to do and bring it next month's meeting for us to continue discussing and planning.

- b. Furnace

- i. One of the furnaces in the basement needs to be replaced. It is original to the building. The cost to replace the unit is \$4,904.37. Schroeder Heating & Cooling gave us the quote for replacing the unit. The lead time is typically 6-8 weeks for this type of unit. The unit needs to be replaced, but the council needs to decide where the money for the unit will come from. Patrick mentioned that the council can spend \$19,445 in 2021 without having to go to the congregation for approval. The furnace is original and will likely become harder and harder to repair. Amy suggested that we get quotes from other local places. Trent offered to take notes and forward those along to Keith. The council all agreed this was a good approach. Eileen will respond to the e-mail string asking that the buildings cabinet get a quote from another local place. We do have the PPP loan funds to use, so cash flow at this moment shouldn't be an issue.

- c. Stewardship Cabinet Resignation

- i. Ellen sent a letter of resignation to Pr. Linda and Eileen. She has taken on a new job with increased responsibilities, which is taking up more of her time. She has offered to stay on as a member of the cabinet. The term is only from now through the end of 2021. Eileen wrote down a few suggestions for replacements from the council, but others are encouraged to send her more names as they think of them. We're hopeful we can get it filled before the next meeting.

5. OPEN DISCUSSION:

- a. Garbage Disposal:

- i. Pr. Linda wanted to point out that we are changing our garbage disposal contractor from Waste Management to Harters. The switch will happen in September. The new cost is significantly less than the old contract.

- b. New COVID guidelines:

- i. Masks are no longer required in the church, but people are still encouraged to wear them if they feel more comfortable doing so.
- ii. Also, we are no longer being held to food service restrictions, meaning we can start holding funeral lunches and other banquets. The number of people is limited to 50 through the end of May, but after that there are no size limits. The MN Department of Health has some guidelines for safely doing so. The fall supper was planned to be drive through only, but the planning crew is now revisiting the idea of possibly holding it in-person as well. This is still in the planning process. No decisions have been made.

- c. Council meeting format:

- i. Do we still want to meet via Zoom? The council felt zoom is still a better option than in-person. We will plan on having a zoom meeting format again in June.

6. Upcoming Events:

- a. May 19, 26 June 2, 9, 16 VVH&R worship service, Prayer group
- b. May 22, 27, June 3, 10, 17 HC worship service
- c. May 30, June 9, 16 Worship Service; May 23, June 6, 20 Holy Communion
- d. May 30, June 6, 13, 20 Worship Service: Stone Church
- e. May 19 Confirmation pictures and rehearsal
- f. May 23 Confirmation Sunday with Holy Communion
- g. June 7 Meet Up and Eat Up Starts every Monday and Wednesday for the Summer
- h. June 6 Graduating Senior Recognition Sunday
- i. June 6 VBS Meeting
- j. June 15 Executive meeting
- k. June 22 Church council

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Markegard, Secretary

CROSS OF CHRIST CONGREGATION COUNCIL