

Grace Lutheran Church
Council Minutes|
March 19, 2024

Members present: Cathy Benson, Penny Carr, Karleen Cotton, Pastor Kelsey Fauser, Courtney Graham, Lorinda Laabs, Ginny Ruths, Randy White, Karin Crain and Jan Whittet via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 1:36 pm.

Randy did devotions on wisdom, understanding, and knowledge: living according to God's word, applying Biblical principles to daily life. Proverbs 16:16, Philippians 1:3-5. Begin with prayer, ask God for guidance.

Minutes: Notes from the February 20 Council meeting approved with corrections. Karleen made the motion to approve, Courtney seconded. Motion passed.

Financials: We had another good month! No complaints, total intake is at budget. We are paying all our bills and are in the black. Horgen estate allocations: \$20,000 to savings (on hold for carpet replacement), \$10,000 to GraceFull Fund, \$50,000 to Mission Investment. Funds do not show on the February report because the deposit was credited in March.

Next 5th Sunday after Easter is in June. We will collect Noisy Offering then.

Ginny made the motion to approve financials. Randy seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor's update: Pastor Kelsey is taking PTO April 2-7 (Monday the 1st is a holiday, doesn't count toward days off). Pastor Paula Stecker will fill in for her. April 7-10 Pastor Kelsey will be at Rainbow Trail for the First Call Conference.

A First Communion class is planned for Sunday, April 14, after worship. Another class can be added if enough people are interested.

An April date will be determined for the next *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* discussion.

Pastor Kelsey wrote an article for the newsletter about telephone ministry and has gotten responses from several people, hopefully will start this month. Individuals on the team will call home-bound members once a month and Pastor Kelsey will follow up with pastoral care as needed.

She is researching specifics regarding a grant for an AED. Most companies will require congregational training of at least 2 people, to be recertified each year. One company provides checks of the equipment every 6 months. Sandee Johnston has been trained on AED and may be interested in participating.

[ADDITION TO NOTES: Grace members Karin Crain and Sydney Lachman are both CPR and AED trained as well.]

Pastor Kelsey has gotten no response on reallocating funds from the washer/dryer grant to the Blessing Box. Her advice is to move ahead with design/production to get a new box built. Her partner, Jessica Jenkins, will build it, then we can reallocate funds as required after the fact.

Another new member class is being planned for April, date TBD.

Kelsey's mom, Kinga Fauser, has been looking into different platforms to potentially replace the Church Windows program Karleen is currently using. Ginny asked about our 501(c)(3) designation and pointed out that it can be well worth the cost because we can access a broad array of free/discounted software and services. Karleen will look into our status, Ginny will research the benefits.

Boards last Wednesday went well, 2-4 weeks until final determination will be made. Pastor Kelsey will inform Council of the decision first.

Aesthetics/Property Team discussion: Two companies have come to look at the carpet. Randy is still waiting on an estimate from the second company. He also has the name of another company but has not yet met with them.

Cost to paint the remaining exterior trim (so all trim matches) is \$3,428. Painting of windows is not a current priority, existing vinyl windows can't be painted. Previous painting cost around \$13,000. Aspen Glass will come to repair a broken pane in a window in the quilting room (\$300+). A few other windows have minor breaks, one with a BB hole all the way through. Painting exterior doors can be done any time.

Damage to front door from attempted break-in was primarily cosmetic. Original latch for doors was at the bottom, but that was removed a while ago because people were tripping over it. A police report was filed about the attempt to break in. Good news is that existing doors are more secure than we thought.

Old Business:

Family Promise – Mollie Christiansen has volunteered as Family Promise coordinator for Grace. She has been in contact with FP volunteer coordinator. FP requested we host on May 12, but Lorinda declined. Next hosting will be at end of September. Mollie knows some people who may be willing to help, can also access online resources such as training courses, resources for dealing with trauma in families. We have sufficient supplies, just need Mollie to organize volunteers and pull all the pieces together so we are prepared.

2024 Synod Assembly – Bishop Gonia gave permission to have two women attend. Tammi Clawson and Penny Carr will attend as representatives from Grace, along with Pastor Kelsey. They are registered with synod. Kelsey will send bishop candidate bios to Penny.

Easter breakfast – Lorinda sent out a list assigning Council members different items to bring. Cathie White is organizing other foods. Sharon Pope got Thrivent money for supplies/utensils. Cathy Benson offered to make gluten-free muffins. Lorinda and Cathie White put together 17 bags of fun stuff for kids. Estimate is attendance of 75-80 people for breakfast, based on last year's worship. Serving 8:30-9:30 am, setup 9:00 am Saturday. Everyone is encouraged to stay after breakfast to help clean up. Using paper plates/ plastic flatware to simplify. Perhaps have someone by fellowship hall entrances (stairs and elevator) to watch donation baskets.

New business: Discussion on weather procedure/policy. Lorinda and Brian Laabs talked about options. When a storm is forecast, have consultation between leaders (pastor, president, VP, music director) Saturday by 3:00 pm to make determination on canceling service. Options for informing congregation: push notifications, email, phone tree. Include survey on best way to contact members on Welcome/Action sheet. Could be used for other non-weather concerns/emergencies (elevator broken, power out, etc.) as well. For Sunday morning storms, make decision on closing by 8–8:30 am. If Pastor Kelsey or Ron Fex can't get to church, we should automatically cancel. Kelsey and Ginny will look into Flashnet/other options for push notifications. Karleen will get survey in this week and also for Easter.

Worship in the Park in place of regular Sunday morning worship might be something of interest. Idea was discussed at *Autopsy* meeting. People would need to bring their own chairs. Some members have problems with walking on grass. Setting up awnings/tables is a fair amount of work. Maybe we could

hold service on front lawn instead of in the park, to limit the amount of walking? Kelsey will investigate park rules.

“Faces of Grace” page on website with photos of members, especially to help new members get to know the congregation. Possibly add to “Who We Are” page, to include only names/photos, no phone/email/address. Kelsey will put an article in this week’s newsletter. Photos can also be used for a new member directory. Karleen has lots of information on how to do a photo directory in-house. People prefer a print directory to the online version. Maybe have monthly write-up on individual members to help personalize info with “fun facts,” ministry involvement. Kelsey and Courtney will work on setting it up. Could also put Faces of Grace on bulletin board in FH.

AlAnon will hold a large gathering at Grace in October. The group loves our space and meeting here.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 16, at 1:30 pm. Ginny is on the schedule for devotions.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm, closed with Lord’s Prayer.

Minutes taken by Ginny Ruths