

Peace Church Coordinating Council Minutes
Monday, November 21, 2022
6:30 p.m. In person and Zoom

Mission statement-

Our **vision** is to be an accessible, open and affirming community growing in Christian faith, committed to **peace** and **justice**, and reaching out in **healing love** to all of creation, including all people, respecting and valuing the **diversity** of people's sexual orientation, race, culture, gender, age, opinions, and physical and mental abilities.

Present: Joan Peterson, Moderator; Jessica Olson, Vice Moderator; Tom Hystead, Past Moderator; Kirby Wood, Temporary Treasurer; Diane Swanoski, Secretary; Susan Larson Kidd, Spiritual Life Chair; Monica Liddle, Acting for Justice Chair; Melissa Boyle, At Large Member; Stephen Dando, At Large Member; Nathan Langer, At Large Member; Rev. Jim Mitulski, Interim Minister; Charlotte Frantz, Interim Pastoral Associate; Nathan Holst, Faith Formation Minister

Absent: Susan Goltz, Member at Large; Geoff Witrak, Stewardship Chair, Penny Cragun, Education Chair

Call to Order at 6:39 p.m.

Devotion - Jessica Olson shares a UCC Daily Devotion, Nov. 6th *Sacrificial Love* by Liz Miller

Addition/Changes to Agenda -

- TO PARKING LOT - A request from the Search Committee for an updated mission statement is brought to the Council. Any changes to the mission statement require a congregational vote. The Search Committee will use the current mission statement as it needs it before the congregational meeting in January. They will be able to update the church profile once the changes are approved. Updated mission statement and budget can be shared with candidates once approved. The Council will review the updated mission statement and discuss changes at our next regular meeting before bringing it to the congregation at the January meeting.
- TO PARKING LOT - The organizational chart also needs updating. Joan Peterson and Jessica Olson will tweak it and bring it to the next regular Council meeting. The organizational chart is based on the Bylaws, which will also require a congregation vote in January.

Consent Agenda vote - Consent Agenda includes:

- Minutes of October 18th Coordinating Council Meeting
- Minutes of November 7th Special Topic Council Meeting
- Committee reports (Spiritual Life, Christian Education-No report, Social Justice Hub, Property/Stewardship)
- Standing Committee Reports- HR and Finance Reports
- Written Reports from Pastor Charlotte Frantz and Nathan Holst

Highlights and/or questions about reports-

- Action item from Acting for Justice Hub - A process is proposed to best direct requests from external organizations looking for volunteers. Requests will be referred to the Social Justice Hub to review and vet the organizations. They will consider if the organization fits our church's mission and if we have the capacity to respond with volunteers. Once approved, the request will be passed on to the Shared Ministry Committee who will take responsibility to communicate it to staff, clergy, and the congregation as well as determine the best means of communication. **Motion from the Acting for Justice Hub: Any external organization requesting volunteers should be directed to the Acting for Justice Hub to review and pass it on to appropriate places. The motion is seconded by Melissa Boyle and unanimously approved.**
- Action item from the Finance Committee - **The Finance Committee makes a motion to transfer up to \$40,000 from the Designated Funds money market account to pay bills if needed due to cash flow deficit.** The motion is seconded by Stephen Dando. The motion passes unanimously. Any monies transferred will be paid back as soon as possible. Motion passes unanimously.
- From the Finance Committee - The Foy Scholarship designated fund has been changed to a restricted fund.
- **A motion from the Finance Committee to accept the resignation of Dick Goese as Council treasurer and appoint Kirby Wood as the interim Council treasurer through the congregational meeting in June 2023. Motion approved by e-vote on November 14, 2022.**
- **A motion from the Finance Committee to approve Kirby Wood to be authorized to sign checks, transfer funds, and/or borrow money on the church's behalf for the Peace Church checking account and the Morgan Stanley accounts. Motion approved by e-vote on November 14, 2022.**
- Action item from the Finance Committee - **There is a motion from the Finance Committee to balance the 2022 budget line items deficit for the Men's and Women's Retreat from the Hennen Fund designated fund.** There is a question about the use of what these funds are actually designated for - adult learning opportunity scholarships and/or expenses related to adult learning. The motion is seconded by Monica Liddle and passes unanimously. The purpose of the Hennen Fund needs to be clarified and needs additional discussion for future requests.
- **The Fund Oversight committee has approved and recommends to the Council to use PK Fund monies in the amount of \$2965.54 and \$1601.53 for Peace Village/VBS and \$1364.01 for Youth Trips. This would offset outstanding costs for these events for 2022. The motion was approved by e-vote on November 14, 2022.**
- Action item from the Finance Committee - **The Finance Committee makes a motion to approve the Foy Scholarship guidelines that were written by a subgroup of Betty Greene, Tom Hystead, and a representative from St. Marks AME (Attachment #1).** The motion is seconded by Susan Larson Kidd unanimously approved.
- **The HR Committee recommends that the Council accept the resignation of Laurie Berner from the HR committee and appoint Susan Goltz as a member of the HR committee. The motion was approved by e-vote on November 14, 2022.**
- A motion is made to accept the Consent Agenda with additional updates and action items addressed above. The motion is seconded and passes unanimously.

Pastors report – Rev. Jim Mitulski, Interim Pastor

- Pastor Jim's report is given In Executive Session.

Old Business -

- **Holy Cow Survey -**
 - The Transition Team will meet tomorrow and discuss how to present survey results and data to the congregation. A subgroup of Tom Hystead, Mary Junnila, and Betty Greene has reviewed the additional comments written on the survey and will present them to the Transition Team.
- **Daycare Space Rental -**
 - It is hoped to have a contract with Greg Follmer, Commercial Realator, to review at our January meeting.
- **Dove Sculpture -**
 - The new dove sculpture is at the church, but we need to find a company to install it. Monies for the installation will come from the Property Committee budget.
- **150th Anniversary Committee Budget -**
 - The 150th Anniversary Committee ended up using approximately \$3,500 less than the \$10,000 originally budgeted for them.
- **Staff update -**
 - Brianna Dornhof gave birth to her baby son and is on maternity leave until December 21st or possibly the end of the year. Susan Richards, a temporary hire through Spherion, is working in the office during Brianna's maternity leave.
 - Charlotte Frantz has been working closely with and training the new staff over the past five weeks. Applause!

New Business -

- **Funding position for Youth and Children's Ministry Intern-**
 - The Fund Oversight Committee has approved a recommendation of a PK Fund request from Nathan and Pastor Jim in the amount of \$7200 to fund a part-time (20 hours per week) Children and Youth Ministry Associate for six months from January to June 2023. The motion is seconded and passes unanimously. Mariah, a junior social work major, has been hired and started using general staff funds through December 31st. She will work with children, youth, middle school, and high school youth programming to continue the momentum of Peace youth ministry. This will allow Nathan Holst to focus on his faith formation responsibilities and passions. Future funding of the position can be addressed in next year's budget.
- **Analyze the Holy Cow Survey data for strategizing - TO PARKING LOT**
 - Pastor Jim suggests a Council retreat in January to further discuss the Holy Cow survey results and its implications on short and long term planning for Peace Church. The retreat is set for Saturday January 7th, 2023 from 9am-noon.
- **Advent -**
 - Charlotte Frantz shares Advent programming with the Council. Quiet contemplative qualities will be available on ZOOM Thursdays evenings during Advent in place of traditional Wednesday night services. Sunday morning worship will also have some new aspects gleaned from the worship workshop attended by clergy, staff, and some Worship and Arts committee members.
- **Sandy Hook shooting remembrance -**
 - A remembrance of the Sandy Hook shooting will be held in December with poetry, speakers, and candlelight.

Next special budget Council meeting - Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m. by room and ZOOM to look closely at 2022 expenses and anticipated expenses for 2023.

Next regular Council meeting - Tuesday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m. by room and ZOOM, also budget focused on income. Devotion Diane Swanoski.

Adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Swanoski, secretary

Executive Session

Attachment #1 Rev. Arthur Foy III Scholarship Fund

Background and Purpose

The Rev. Arthur Foy III Scholarship Fund was established in 2004 after the untimely death of Pastor Arthur Foy. Pastor Foy was killed in an automobile accident during his tenure as pastor of St. Mark AME church. Pastor Foy and his family lived in Duluth, was well-known in the community, and was especially passionate about education as essential to breaking the generational cycle of inequity experienced by African heritage persons. During his tenure, Peace Church developed a close and supportive relationship with St. Mark.

The establishment of a scholarship in his name seemed an appropriate way of recognizing Rev. Foy's ministry and keeping his legacy alive. From the beginning, the criteria for the selection of recipients and decisions about distribution of funds has been a collaborative effort among St. Mark, Peace and Rev. Foy's widow. Fundraising each year has also been a collaborative effort, often a concert during which that year's recipients were recognized.

The scholarship is for a young person of color who is pursuing post-secondary education in a field of their choice. Preference will be given to the following (not necessarily in this order):

- Young people of color from the Duluth/Superior area
- Active members of a black congregation in the Duluth/Superior area
- First time college attendees from the family
- Demonstrated economic need

The purpose of the Foy Scholarship and the scholarship criteria are consistent with and demonstrate the mission of the Dismantling Racism Team and Peace Church. The Foy Scholarship collaboration is essential to the ongoing relationship between Peace Church and St. Mark AME. The scholarship addresses the inequitable distribution of educational resources, funds and grants that have burdened persons of color for hundreds of years and continue to disadvantage them in the present. The scholarship embodies the preferential option for the poor and oppressed that is a central theme of the prophets and Jesus and must be at the core of a truly Christian focus on social justice.

Foy Scholarship Committee

Currently, the funds are held by Peace Church. The Foy Scholarship Committee consists of the lead pastor of each congregation or a person designated by the lead pastor, a lay member of each congregation, and Pastor Foy's widow. Peace Church has given a minimal amount of staff time to administering the scholarship program on behalf of the committee, in large part because Peace has more staff resources and continuity than St. Mark. The Foy Scholarship Committee reports its work to the Dismantling Racism Team of Peace Church. Disbursements are authorized by the Foy Scholarship Committee and are implemented through Peace Church's

voucher system.