

Peace United Church of Christ
Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2022 — 6:30 pm via Room and Zoom

Present: Moderator, Tom Hystead; Vice-Moderator, Joan Peterson; Treasurer, Dick Goese; Secretary, Diane Swanoski; Spiritual Life Representative, Susan Larson Kidd, Education Representative, Penny Cragun; Stewardship Representative: Dave Courtright, Acting for Justice Representative, Monica Liddle; At Large members; Jessica Olson, Mary Adams, Bud Trnka, Matt Ryan, Interim Minister, Rev. Jim Mitulski; Faith Formation Minister, Nathan Holst; Interim Pastoral Associate, Charlotte Frantz

Call to order at 6:35 p.m.

Opening Meditation: Nathan Holst, Faith Formation Minister, shares Steven Charleston's prayer of gratitude asking "How can I not offer thanks to the spirit". What are we grateful for at Peace Church? ([Sign up for future devotion](#))

Approval of April 19th and May 10th Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes. It is moved and seconded to accept the April 19th and May 10th Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes as emailed. Unanimously passed.

Approval of Consent Agenda with discussion, including written committee representative reports, Faith Formation Minister, and Interim Pastoral Associate reports. It is moved by Dick Goese and seconded by Jessica Olson to accept the Consent Agenda minutes. Unanimously approved.

Reports of Standing Committees

Finance Committee: March 31, 2022 Financial Reports were emailed. Additional comments:

- Tom Hystead, Moderator, acknowledges that the financial reports emailed are not all accurate. The Gabriel Fund, Clearing Accounts, and Balance sheet are accurate. The Budget Analysis is a first draft. Amended reports will be emailed.
- Dick Goese, Treasurer, notes that we needed to use \$25,000 of the significant gift pledge to meet the budget last month.
- The financial reports are unanimously received.

Human Resources Committee: Written Report.

- There is further discussion about church security, including rekeying locks and purchasing a slotted cash box. There will be continued discussion with the Property Committee about overall security, including data security (including HR records).

Nominating Committee – Jessica Olson reports:

- The Nominating Committee will be meeting tomorrow night.

- There are five or six people interested in Council positions. Conversations between them and Nominating Committee members are taking place.
- It has been brought up that the nominating process has not been equitable and transparent in the past. The process will receive further consideration
- Peace UCC Bylaws give the Nominating Committee the authority to nominate new Council members for the Council to consider.

Written Committee Representative Reports –

Christian Education: Written Report. Penny Cragun reports:

- Adult Education is finishing up.
- There will be a breakfast for confirmands on Sunday, May 20th at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate.
- High School graduates will be recognized on Sunday, June 5th.
- Pastor Jim will have a service based on local singer/songwriter Bob Dylan at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 29th.
- Peace Village will take the place of Vacation Bible School in June. It is in conjunction with the Unitarian Universalist church.
- Both the Adult and Children's Education Committees are doing planning in June and taking some time off in August.

Christian Spiritual Life: Written Report. Susan Larson Kidd adds:

- Approximately thirty shared ministry forms have been returned.
- We are looking for Tech help/staff during the summer. Classified ads have been placed. Please let Susan know if you are interested in learning/helping with technology or know of anyone who may be interested.

Acting for Justice Hub: No written report is submitted. Monica Liddle reports:

- The Acting for Justice Hub met Sunday, May 15th.
- Monica Liddle and Rev. Charlotte Frantz are moving forward in the development of the Homeless Response Team. They have put together a small team, which will meet tomorrow night with Joel Kilgore, from Loaves and Fishes, about the Stepping On Up plan for Duluth. They also plan to meet with the St. Louis County Commissioner and other community leaders concerning the homelessness crisis.
- Good Crocodile Foundation will be featured during the May 29th 10:30 a.m. worship service. There will be speakers and an offering taken.

Christian Stewardship: Written Report. Dave Courtright adds:

- The new tent will be delivered this week. Dave will need some help unloading it.
- Dave reiterates the importance of monitoring Property budget spending, as the current and planned projects will use all of the budgeted funds.
- Dave is beginning to research a new furnace for the church. Tom Hystead and Dick Goese have offered to help.

Minister's Reports

Reverend Jim Mitulski, Interim Minister reports:

- Pastor Jim has spent time reviewing the SSC Report, Interim Objectives, Long Range Plan, and *A Sure Foundation* documents. These documents will be looked at in more depth at the June Council meeting.
- We will continue working on the Interim Objectives.
- Pastor Jim has represented Peace Church in civic participation with Grandmothers for Peace and the Pro Choice Group Rally and memorial service.
- We will continue all of our current church activities through June.
- During July and August there will be only one service on Sunday mornings. Communion will be served and the services will be more informal and energetic.
- It is encouraged that no committees meet during July.
- August meetings should be used to plan what they will be doing in the fall and hit the ground running in September.
- We will resume two Sunday worship services the second week in September.
- Pastoral staff will take time off during the summer months. One pastor will always be available.
- The Congregational Meeting is on June 12th following the 10:30 worship service.
- On June 19th, the 8:30 service will be at St. Mark's AME and a 10:00 service at the Giving Garden.
- A retreat/orientation for current and new Council members will be held on Tuesday, June 14th. There will be dinner at 5:00 p.m. and meeting from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- The next Council meeting is Tuesday, June 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Nathan Holst, Faith Formation Minister: Written report. Additional comments by Nathan Holst:

- There was a men's retreat in which seven men participated. It felt good.
- There is a suggestion for a Children's portal for younger children. We will try it in the summer and build on it if it is successful.

Charlotte Frantz, Interim Pastoral Associate: Written report. Charlotte adds:

- The Celebration of Life for Jerry Cleveland will be on Saturday, May 21st at 11:00 a.m.
- Charlotte will be gone from the end of June and the beginning of July.

Old Business

Daycare Lease -

- A new lease has been written by an attorney and approved by Council members by email vote. Tom Hystead will meet with the new Daycare owners and present the lease for them to sign.

150 Anniversary Committee update –

- Anniversary Committee members have been conducting interviews with congregation members.

- Work is in progress with the Property Committee to install new lighting for the Peace bell tower. A special lighting celebration is being planned.
- An agreement (and deposit) has been made to bring David Hogg to Duluth as a keynote speaker for a public event.

Designated Fund Oversight Committee - Nominations/Appointments

- Fund oversight policy/procedure has been adopted for the Jubilee and PK funds.
- A Designated Fund Oversight Committee is being formed to oversee the Jubilee and PK funds. The Committee will consist of two Council members (current or past), one staff member, and two congregation members. Contact Tom Hystead if you are interested.

New Business:

Annual Meeting Planning – Sunday, June 12th following 10:30 worship.

- Annual Reports will be presented and received.
- A slate of Coordinating Council members will be presented and voted on.
- Pastor Jim will present a transition report.
- The meeting will be available in person and online.
- Joan Peterson will bring her computer to receive and tally votes by email.
- The Congregational meeting will be recorded.

Future meeting Agenda Items

- Pastor Jim Contract Extension – Begin to look at the interim timeline and a contract extension with Pastor Jim.
- Troop 44 - Scouting USA request for Sponsorship. More background information will be provided at the next meeting.

Additional comments –

Pastor Jim shares thoughts for us to consider:

- We need to be realistic about the size of our congregation.
- We need to be thinking about the pastoral staff we want.
- Do we want to staff for maintenance or growth?
- We are a shrinking/growing congregation.
- Much depends on how we come out of COVID.
- It will be very important who is on the Search Committee for our settled pastor.
- There are many churches searching for pastors at this time. Many UCC pastors have retired.
- We will think about a fall Council retreat (off site) to think big about our future together.

Adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Next meetings:

- Sunday, June 12th Congregational Meeting after 10:30 worship service.
- Tuesday, June 14th Leadership Retreat (dinner at 5:00 p.m. meeting at 5:30 p.m.)
- Tuesday, June 21st Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Swanoski, secretary