

Peace Church Coordinating Council Minutes
August 16, 2022
6:30 p.m. In person

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; Dick Goese, Treasurer; Diane Swanoski, Secretary; Geof Witrack, Stewardship Chair; Susan Larson Kidd, Spiritual Life Chair; Penny Cragun, Education Chair, Monica Liddle, Acting for Justice Chair, Melissa Boyle, At Large Member; Stephen Dando, At Large Member, Susan Goltz, At Large Member; Nathan Langer, At Large Member, Rev. Jim Mitulski, Interim Minister; Charlotte Frantz, Interim Pastoral Associate, Nathan Holst, Faith Formation Minister

Call to Order 6:36 p.m.

Devotion by Joan Peterson: Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr

Agenda Changes: Add to the consent agenda voting to remove folks identified as no longer members from Peace Church membership roles and approval of CHUM delegates Louise Hawley (1 year term) and Annette Strom (2 year term).

Consent Agenda vote - Consent Agenda includes:

- Minutes of June 14th Coordinating Council meeting
- Committee reports (Spiritual Life, Christian Education, Social Justice Hub, Property/Stewardship)
- Standing Committee Reports- HR and Finance Reports
- Written Reports from Pastor Charlotte Frantz and Nathan Holst
- Report from 150th committee
- Remove those folks from the membership list that have been identified as no longer members of Peace Church. This is necessary to have a more accurate member list for the Stewardship campaign and for the church profile
- Approve CHUM delegates Louise Hawley (1 year) and Annette Strom (2 years)

It is moved by Geoff Witrack and seconded by Tom Hystead to accept the consent agenda as amended with voting. The Consent Agenda is unanimously approved.

Pastor Jim's report -

Transition Timeline - Joan Peterson distributes an approximate Transition Timeline, which will be a work in progress. Pastor Jim reminds the Council that the timeline presented does not represent the timeline that was agreed upon when he was hired. The order of the

timeline is more or less accurate, however, the work of transition is taking longer than anticipated for a variety of reasons, including:

- Things take longer than you think they will
- There are variables we cannot control, such as COVID (which has also affected the mood of the church)
- If you think you are moving too slowly, slow down
- A five month search process may not be feasible due to a number of variables including: when the job is posted, candidates available, quality of candidates, when the settled pastor can start, etc.
- Pastor Jim reminds us that there is a spiritual dimension to the Search process that we must trust - it will sustain us during the process.
- Pastor Jim passes around several resources that the Search Committee will be using, in addition to the UCC document *A Sure Foundation*.
- There will be an application form for Search Committee candidates to submit. Search Committee candidates can be nominated and self-nominated.
- Pastor Jim suggests that candidates have the opportunity to present themselves to the congregation during a forum. Each candidate answers five questions, ex. What do I look for in a pastor, How do I have the capacity to choose for the whole church, etc.
- It may be necessary to recruit Search Committee members to have a representation of the diversity of the congregation.
- Final Search Committee candidates (approximately eight) will be presented to and voted on by the Coordinating Council.
- It is important to thank all who step forward to be considered.
- Since the June Council Meeting, Pastor Jim reports:
 - He commends the Executive Committee for keeping things going this summer.
 - We are learning to live with COVID in our midst.
 - We have maintained momentum.
 - Thank you for letting staff experiment with worship. We have tried many new ideas during summer worship.
 - Coffee hour after worship has been great - having it in the foyer seems to encourage more people to stay and mingle.
 - COVID has caused cancellation of activities, including youth retreats. Some have had financial impact in the form of lost deposits. It has been decided that no reservations will be made going forward that will require financial obligation until things once more stabilize.
 - Pastoral staff covered for each other as health issues presented.
 - Staff and some committees have been busy working on fall program planning.
 - The Transition Team has met and will begin work with the Holy Cow survey.
 - The 150th Anniversary Committee has also been busy. Be sure to appreciate Marsha Hystead and the Committee for all of their excellent work. We are so fortunate to have Marsha's expertise and enthusiasm chairing this.
 - Staff and some volunteers are participating in an online workshop on worship planning process led by Marcia McFee of Worship Design Studio. Dr. McFee is a professor, worship designer, author, educator, and ritual artist.

- The upcoming Council retreats will focus on community building, organization infrastructure, and visioning. Pastor Jim distributes copies of Rev. Dr. Michael Piazza's *Hybrid Hope - Church of the Future for Churches with a Future*, book for Council members to read before the retreat. The Worship Team, Stewardship Team, and staff will also be looking at parts of the book.
- Pastor Jim is working to get a United Seminarian Student Intern to work along with Nathan Holst focusing on the youth of our congregation.

Additional Comments by Rev. Charlotte Frantz -

Charlotte is so proud of Duluth and our church. A family of three asylum seekers drove into a church parking lot with no place to go. They were taken in and housed for a week and a half. They were referred to Charlotte who disseminated information to people who could possibly help. A meeting was set up and 18 community members attended and are helping them to find temporary housing. Immigration work cannot happen without a whole community. The infrastructure for assisting resettlement of refugees and immigrants lies in the hands of individuals and private organizations. The Circle of Hope Team is a resource and role model for successful immigrant resettlement.

Additional Comments by Faith Formation Minister Nathan Holst - Nathan has been giving thought into what is going to spark people, how to reconnect people, and how to generate energy:

- He has been brainstorming activities centered around David Hogg's Rally and his book.
- Peace and Family time on Sunday evenings should generate more young family involvement.
- Nathan will be attending OWL program adult training. He is hoping to extend programming to UMD and CSS students.

Old Business -

- A Task Force for extending Pastor Jim's contract (Jessica Olson, Susan Larson Kidd, Melissa Boyle, and Tom Hystead) will meet August 17th.
- The Transition Team will meet August 18th. The Holy Cow survey will be ordered after the Transition Team meets.
- Boy Scout Troop sponsorship -
 - Pastor Jim, Joan Peterson, and Monica Liddle met with Justin Olson, Suzanne Gilder and Clark Garthwaite about sponsoring Boy Scout Troop #44. They discussed Peace Church's role in troop sponsorship. Rev. Tom Liddle has agreed to be the church liaison to the troop. The Boy Scouts have their own insurance and there is no financial obligation on the part of Peace Church. The Charter Agreement is a one year contract. The subgroup recommends sponsorship. It is moved by Susan Larson Kidd to sponsor Boy Scout Troop 44 and seconded by Nathan Langer. The vote passes with one abstention.
 - Troop 44 will meet at Peace Church on Monday evenings if there is space.
 - There is a request to have Justin Olson write something for the Peace Bell about the troop and our sponsorship of it.

- The Executive Committee met to approve the application for new Peace Church credit cards. Dick Goese, Treasurer, will be the personal guarantor for the cards. If there are any financial liabilities incurred for Dick, the church will reimburse him for those.

New Business -

- We are actively looking for new members for HR, Finance, and Property Committees, as well as a Vice treasurer.
- Dove structure replacement -
 - There is discussion regarding the dove structure on the exterior of the building. The current structure is made of wood and has deteriorated from exposure to the elements and is in danger of falling off the building. The Property Committee has requested to replace it with a metal structure (also designed by the original artist Gail Blum) at a cost of \$6,000. The funds would come from a designated fund for building needs. There is a motion by Dick Goese, to use funds from the designated building repairs fund to replace the Dove structure and have it installed at its current location. Jessica Olson seconds the motion. The motion passes with two nay votes.
- Holy Cow survey -
 - The Holy Cow survey will be ordered after the Transition Team meets on Thursday. Additional modules and questions will be included. The active date is September 5th and it will be active for 4-6 weeks. Some tech work will be done to set up computers at church to complete the survey. Paper copies will also be available.
- Kitchen Cleaning -
 - The Food and Fellowship Committee Chair, Cathy Ameel, identified that the refrigerator in the kitchen, as well as some additional deep cleaning was needed. A friend of Elise Courtright did a very good job with these tasks for a reasonable price. Cathy asks that money be budgeted for such cleaning each year.
- Council Retreat -
 - Two dates have been designated for the Council Retreat. Members are to choose to attend either September 8th from 9-12:30 or September 16th from 12:30-4. The location is yet to be determined. It is suggested to contact other churches to see if they would have a space for us to meet. Jessica Olson volunteers to contact Glen Avon Presbyterian Church and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church about the availability of a space for us. Look for more information to come.
- Additional Comments -
 - HR met to discuss the Office Coordinator position. Nancy Nelson will be retiring. The job will be reconfigured and be posted soon.

Adjourn @ 8:30 p.m. to Executive Council

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 20th @ 6:30 p.m.

Devotion for September: Susan Larson Kidd

Respectfully submitted, Diane Swanoski, Secretary

Parking Lot (for consideration at future meetings)

Oct. 1st event

Stewardship theme

Search Committee

Staff changes

Building and maintenance needs