



## June 2025 Council Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b> 06-17-2025	<b>Time:</b> 6:30 PM	<b>Location:</b> Fellowship Hall and Zoom
<p><b>Those present are indicated in bold: Pastor Dan Nelson, Deacon Savannah Olaphson, Tom Getchius</b> (President), <b>Julie Maes</b> (Vice-President), <b>Kirsten Stenoien</b> (Treasurer), <b>Rick Ites</b> (Financial Secretary), <b>Kim Whalen</b> (Secretary), Jennifer Johnson (Adult Faith Formation), Emily Sienkowski / <b>Karina Nelson</b> (Children's Education), <b>Amanda Ropchak</b> (Evangelism), Bev Osekowsky / <b>Ruth Lunde</b> (Parish Fellowship), Jolene Engler. / <b>Nicole Seieroe</b> (Middle School Youth), <b>Ellie Scheler</b> (High School Youth), Lou Hernandez (Property), <b>Kelly Robert</b> (Service &amp; Justice), <b>Jim Andreen</b> (Stewardship), <b>Eric Lovestrand</b> (Worship, Music &amp; Arts)</p>		
<p><b>Call To Order:</b> 6:35 PM <b>Devotion:</b> Kelly R. <b>Adjourned:</b> 8:16 PM Jim motion Nicole second</p>		
<p><b>Approval of May Minutes:</b> Jim motion, Kirsten 2nd, all voted to approve</p>		

Action Item	Who	Status	Expected Completion
Volunteer for Welcome Center / Sunday Fellowship	All	Ongoing	Ongoing
Submit written committee reports online each month	All	Ongoing	Ongoing
Talking points about what an Interim Pastor is	Pastor Dan	In Progress	June 2025
Research how to appropriately compensate a full-time custodian if over 40 hours per week	Julie	In Progress	June 2025
Update the proposed motion not to allow non-member use of space (that is not non-profit or for-profit)	Kelly M.	In Progress	June 2025
Write a proposal for an updated slate of by-laws, including a change to the Service & Justice name	Kim W.	In Progress	November 2025
Reach out to Lou and Mark to get information that could be useful in covering the custodial gap	Pastor Dan	In Progress	July 2025
Reach out to the altar guild to ask if cleaning stoles, pastoral robes, and acolyte robes at the same time as cleaning paraments would be easy	Eric L.	In Progress	July 2025

## **TRANSITION TEAM UPDATES - Julie M.**

### **Interim Pastor**

- Our Interim Pastor will be Pastor Steven Olson. He has experience as both a parish pastor and an interim pastor. He starts July 7 and has a .75 appointment (30 hours a week). The initial contract is for six months, but that is flexible. He plans to take Mondays off and work Fridays, as Pastor Dan does the opposite. He will be preaching July 13 and will attend council meetings.

### **Call Committee**

- The Call committee will begin meeting on June 24. Pastor Holden from the synod will come to the first meeting and help facilitate.

### **Retirement Weekend**

- The celebrations and worship for Pastor Paul Nelson's retirement weekend were successful and well attended. Paul and Karen were thrilled with how the weekend went.

## **ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIAL UPDATES**

### **Attendance - Rick I.**

- June-May (12 months rolling) attendance was a little higher than the last two years.

### **Giving - Rick I.**

- This May had 4 Sundays, and was about \$14,000 under budget for the month, but year-to-date giving is about \$62,000 ahead of budget.
- June-May (12 months rolling) is about \$3,500 lower.
- We were about \$6,800 over budget for miscellaneous giving.

### **Financial Statements - Kirsten S.**

- The financials look good year-to-date, but predicting the future is challenging due to the unpredictable timing of large gifts.
- Year-to-date, we are under budget for personnel expenses.
- General & Administrative expenses are in good shape.
- Building-related costs are over budget due to roof repair and maintenance. We have used up our capital campaign funds and previously dipped into the general fund to further our roof repairs. However, there are additional needs, including addressing a leak.
- Since income for the first quarter was high and benevolence is a percent of giving, benevolence expenses for the first quarter were also high.
- The youth ministry section of the general fund had fewer expenses than budgeted, due to fewer service trips and the use of a dedicated youth scholarship fund.

## **COMMITTEE NAME CHANGE**

**Kelly R. moved to change the title of the Social Ministry committee to Service & Justice** in all of our communications. Julie M. seconded. All voted to approve. We plan to make this official at the next annual meeting.

## **STAFF AND PASTORAL UPDATES - Pastor Dan**

### **Staff Updates**

- Kelly M. ruptured her Achilles tendon while setting up for the weekend potluck. She is coming to the office some, with the primary focus now on figuring out who can cover different tasks for her during her recovery from her upcoming surgery. Due to the injury happening on the job, workers' compensation insurance is involved.
- Darrell F., our custodian, is on vacation until July 7. Aaron G., the part-time weekend custodian, can work with Lou H. and possibly past Property team leads to get any questions answered and make sure everything goes smoothly in Darrell's absence.
- Paul E. is on sabbatical. There is a link on Immanuel's website to the following web page where the congregation can follow along with his activities:  
<https://www.polarsteps.com/PaulTwinCities/15308170-camino-2025?s=36F9189D-75AD-4531-9AB9-3E1846A0DD85>
- Grace P. is at camp.
- Deacon Savannah will be leading staff meetings.

### **Pastoral Updates**

- 5 baptisms.
- Upcoming funeral.
- Pastor Paul's retirement weekend went well, and working with the bishop was lovely. She was a helpful presence and very engaged.

## **UPDATES FROM THE DEACON - Deacon Savannah**

- Immanuel's Pentecost service was well received, and people responded well to the use of multiple languages.
- The liturgy that the bishop brought for releasing Pastor Paul to retirement was very powerful.
- Savannah is working on scheduling visits for homebound congregation members and also working on getting lay leaders involved in caring ministry.
- Savannah participated in the community meal with our partner congregation, Salem, and is looking for more people to come to the upcoming meal with another partner, Redeemer.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Children's Education - Emily S. / Karina N.**

- Rainbow party fun on 6/14 with 14 kids / 6 families. Got messy with tie-dye and paint. Then story & snack. Good response, including from community members not in the congregation.
- Parents' night out 5/31. 16 kids to 4 helpers.
- Camp Wapo this week and VBS July 7 week.
- Adding a survey to Sunday School registration to understand what families are looking for at ILC.

### **Stewardship - Jim A.**

- Had last meeting with Pastor Paul and mapped out stewardship through August.
- Pastor Dan will be participating more going forward.

### **Middle School Youth / High School Youth - Jolene E. / Nicole S. / Ellie S.**

- Duluth Service Learning Trip coming up - 8 students and 2 adults signed up.
- Will include a survey with confirmation registration this year, partly to plan service learning trips that will allow more people to participate.
- Confirmation is over, so it is pretty quiet.
- Kelly R. suggested that offering internships for young adults could be a nice opportunity. Tom G. mentioned we would have to look at labor laws.

### **Evangelism - Amanda R.**

- Planning to set up some meetings and get some more people involved in the committee. Some things that fall under this committee include Tables of Eight and Grief Coalition.
- Tent meeting and Bingo planning for September is in a good place, and Kelly M. has been taking care of a lot of the setup. Pastor Paul left a good "to do" list.
- Tables of Eight is already happening.
- Discussed Outreach vs Inreach. Website, Social Media, Mailings.
- Kari Totall joined the Grief Coalition in Pastor Paul's place.

### **Worship, Music & Arts - Eric L.**

- Had a planning meeting including working on plans toward ordering a new drum kit.
- Considering pulling thematic threads between the traditional and contemporary services.
- Planning out services in advance will help the music team match songs to the service themes.
- New candle ordered using memorial funds. It is oil-filled.
- The congregation-painted mural will be moved from storage to be displayed in Fellowship Hall.
- Swing-band dance night in the works.
- An idea is being pursued to swap the handbell choir with another church for a Sunday.

- Planning for fellowship opportunities within the music program.
- Looking for community art project ideas.
- The youth choirs had a good visit to Duluth, visiting a water park and singing at a local church.
- A very nice quilt was made by Jocelyn with squares decorated by current and past choir members and presented to Barb Savereide.

#### **Parish Fellowship - Bev O. / Ruth L.**

- Fellowship committee members helped with events for Pastor Paul's retirement (e.g. decorating tables, cleaning up after the potluck, and serving cake Sunday morning).
- We have had volunteers thus far for weekly Sunday morning fellowship, serving coffee, lemonade, etc. However, we need more people to sign up for upcoming weeks to continue this weekly in the summer.
- There have been enough volunteers to serve at Funerals.
- Our Fellowship committee will meet this summer to discuss and plan for Tent meeting food, the Wednesday Cafe relaunch in September, and Electrical use in the kitchen and dining areas.
- We have been able to purchase some kitchen items using memorial funds.

#### **Service & Justice - Kelly R.**

- The Service & Justice survey closed on Sunday; results pending.
- Discussing doing an event on the Friday night of tent service (fundraiser for Cristo Obrero?).
- DOPA site for EP schools, especially to help with support during the summer.
- Habitat for Humanity went well a week ago, and Habitat Alliance is coming up.

#### **Adult Faith Formation - Jennifer J.**

- We met June 2 and will meet again in late August/early September.
- We discussed how to support one another.
- Sharing resources, especially as finding Bible studies that match our ELCA theology can be difficult. That said, we are open to all studies as we learn from one another just as much.
- We are also looking for ways to integrate this year's theme, "Immanuel, God with Us" into all our ministries.

#### **Property - Lou H.**

- Lou has a call into Tom Totall regarding pricing on the new roof leak.
- An electrician is coming out this week to try to track down the issue with the parking lot lighting.
- For the 2026 budget, we got a bid for striping and will be getting a bid for resurfacing the parking lot.
- Lou will be giving support to Aaron while Darrel is on vacation through July 7.