

Council Meeting Minutes May 18, 2025

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 11:46am.

II. Roll Call

- Present: Pastor Anna, Lavonne, Amy, Carol, Linda, Anne, Danna, and John (on phone)
- Absent: none
- All seven voting members were in attendance, establishing a quorum.

III. Prayer

- Danna opened the meeting with prayer.

IV. Approve Previous Months Minutes

Motion –Amy moved and Linda seconded – “to approve the minutes of the March 16th Council Meeting as submitted” – motion was approved.

V. Review Proposed Agenda

- Add Old Business items: Synod Assembly Updates and Pastor’s Maternity Leave
- Add New/Future Business items: Pastor’s Housing Allowance and Garden Update

VI. Reports

A. **Pastor** – see end of minutes (page 4) for her full report.

- Need a Sunday morning coordinator to greet the guest Pastor and give them the paperwork. LaVonne volunteered to do this while Pastor Anna is off.

B. **President**

- No Report

C. **Treasurer**

- Amy will be gone on and off throughout the summer.
 - Checks need to be written for Pastor and the Janitor, Amy can pre-write these checks. Soil is being ordered for the garden, a check will be needed for approximately \$800. Text picture of the checks to Jamie.
 - Danna will help in June and August, LaVonne will help in July.

D. **Building Maintenance**

- Need to replace the water heater; it is in a closet in the Preschool area and provides hot water for the kitchen upstairs. It will need to be emptied to avoid a flood.
- Kitchen Stove: need to get Klebs out to move the valve and hire another contractor to get the gas back on.
- Stairlift: we have the binders now, Dan and LaVonne will begin checking and logging both lifts

- Fire Panel: The contact drew up the building and is working on a quote, around \$50K. A new system will auto call the Fire Department.
- Continue to have issues with the downstairs toilets, the handles have to be held down for a long time to ensure they flush so they do not clog.
- The folding chairs need to be cleaned.
- Request Todd vacuum the toddler room.
- The broken window has been replaced.
- Supplies List;
 - There is white board in the kitchen to write supplies that are needed.
 - Frequently, church members purchase supplies used in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall.
 - Currently our toilet paper and paper towels are coming from Amazon. Amazon carries the paper towels that fit our dispensers. John has been taking care of ordering them and getting them to the church.
 - Carol will go to Costco with the church debit card to purchase D cell batteries for the 3 paper towel dispensers, liquid hand soap bottles with refills, kitchen trash bags, and large trash can bags. (I bought the wrong trash bags, I will get the right ones the next time I go to Costco and I need to bring the bottles of hand soap to the church.)

VII. Old Business:

A. Synod Assembly Updates

- The Synod budget increased. Bishop is currently part-time; he will also take on the role of DEM part-time so a portion of his compensation will be paid by Churchwide. This arrangement will be tried for 1 year.
- Speaker on Community Engagement offered some ideas: Invite someone to a function at the church before inviting them to church; notice needs of neighbors and assist with a church member; ask someone to help with a church event. Traditional methods like mailers are impersonal and going door-to-door can feel dangerous.
- Discussion on raising awareness of caring for and supporting indigenous peoples.
- Additional information is available on-line.

B. Pastor's Maternity Leave

Following some discussion of compensation and benefits for Pastor during her maternity leave, it was noted that the 2025 church budget included paying Pastor for the entire year and covered supply pastors. Therefore, we can compensate her for 8 weeks of leave instead of 6 weeks without the need for extra funds in the budget; this will simplify handling of her benefits thru Portico.

VIII. New/Future Business:

A. Pastor's Housing Allowance.

- As part of the pastoral compensation package, a portion of the money is designated as a housing allowance for tax purposes.

Motion – Danna moved and Amy seconded – “to designate \$5,000 as Pastor Anna’s housing allowance” – motion passed unanimously.

B. Garden Update

- Jeanette reported that all of the money for the beds has been received, \$1,045.
- Soil is being ordered, it will cost approximately \$800.
- Linda donated the fertilizer as Gary has always done.

IX. Decisions / Action Items Review:

- **Pastor Anna**
 - Send letterhead to Carol for Enstar contacts.
- **John**
 - Order paper towels.
 - Water Heater replacement coordination
 - Stove valve relocate, repair and inspection.
- **LaVonne**
 - Be the Liason for the fill-in Pastor’s while Pastor Anna is on maternity leave.
 - Log the stairlift tests on a regular basis when Dan uses the Fellowship Hall lift and test/log stairlift to the preschool.
 - Work with Amy and Lavonne to get checks written this summer
- **Amy**
 - Work with Danna and Lavonne to get checks written this summer.
- **Carol**
 - Send Enstar a letter changing people authorized on the account; then have the bill taken off level pay and request this year’s excess or shortfall be settled. Enstar will continue to be on autopay.
 - Purchase supplies from COSTCO with the church debit card.
- **Danna**
 - Work with Amy and Lavonne to get checks written this summer.
- **Anne**
 - None at this time.
- **Linda**
 - None at this time.

X. Next Meeting Date: July 13th at 11:30am

- An interim meeting will be called for any items that need to be addressed prior to July 13th.

XI. Closing Prayer

- Pastor Anna closed the meeting with prayer.

XII. Adjourn -1:08pm

Pastor Anna's Full Report

Hours:

3/16-20/20
3/23 20/20
3/30-20/20
4/6- 20/20
4/13- 24/20
4/20- 35/20
4/27- 23/20 (22 over)
5/4- 17/20
5/11- 15/20 (14 over)

Report:

- Lent midweek services
- Basement clean out day
- Holy week (printing bulletins, preparing for services)
- Oriented Heather to doing our PowerPoint each week
- Collegium and Synod Assembly events
- Boundaries training workshop (6 hours) required every 5 years
- Beer and Hymns event (over 17k!)
- Visited Cindy and Dallas
- WAM meeting, Bible study, Sunday school

Future:

- Gather Bible Study meet on 2nd Sunday, Council on 4th Sunday, Sunday School on 1st and 3rd
- Holden Village Retreat May 27th- June 2nd
- Toddler time June and July on Wednesday mornings 10-11am
- Youth group from Chicago coming for volunteering 3 days at church (June 9th-11th) (building compost station for garden, painting room across kitchen, organizing rummage sale, organizing basement?)
- Garden Party is scheduled for mid June.
- Rummage Sale is Saturday June 14th, Jo is lead volunteer
- Youth trip to Fairbanks June 23rd-27th

Parental Leave Plan:

Last Sunday: July 27th, July 28th-September 29th off (9 weeks total- 6 paid, 2 unpaid, 1 week continuing education done either before the baby is born or after the baby is born based on when the baby decides to come) First Sunday back: October 5th
Aaron and I are working on a preaching schedule for our churches coordinating the preachers of Anchorage area. Pastor Sandy will be at COSLC on August 31st as a thank you for letting Amazing Grace "borrow" me last week while she was on sabbatical.