

6/9/26 - COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

7:00 p.m. Meeting called to order by Sherri Eriksrud, President

Members Present: Pastor Reggie Klindworth, Sherri Eriksrud, Kristi Kirsch, Eric Larson, Deb Mangen, Bill Tyler, Krista Hammann, Deb Kielty, Rich Latterner, Leah Skille

Members Absent: Ashley Pederson (Director of Finance)

7:03 p.m. Devotion: Deb Kielty ("Jesus Calling")

7:06 p.m. Approval of May 18 Council Minutes

- Deb Kielty made the motion to approve the minutes; Krista Hammann seconded the motion.
- All in attendance at the May meeting approved; no one objected.
- Motion carried.

7:07 p.m. Pastor Reggie's Report

- There are thirty students registered for VBS which will be held July 17-30. Gretchen Mitcham is working on the final details for the week.
- The mission trip to San Francisco was canceled due to a building issue at the destination. Denver had been the second choice voted on by the youth earlier this year. We were able to secure spots to that location so that's where we will be headed leaving on June 14 and returning on June 20.
- Pastor Reggie has been working with Ginger Larson on worship music preparation. Ginger, Grace Becker and Tabitha Hanson have the music schedule completed through the end of the year.
- Grace Becker will not be available to serve as the interim chancel choir director. We are currently looking for someone to fill that position from mid-August through Christmas. Pastor Reggie will check back with Grace after Christmas to see if she would be interested in the permanent choir director position.
- A staff retreat to plan worship services through the end of the program year will be held on June 23 at The Blessing House in Victoria.
- Sarah Wheeler, Interim Building Administrator, is doing an incredible job. She has contacted several area churches and has put together a spreadsheet showing rental rate comparisons from those churches. Out of all of the churches she contacted COG is the least expensive. Based on this information Sarah will be updating our space rental amounts and the current Building Rental Guidelines. Sarah will be on staff through the end of June or early July.
- The Table Travel Communion To Go kits program has kicked off. Online worship hits have gone up considerably. This is possibly due to the communion kits.
- A COG family has indicated that they would like to make a donation for a dishwasher. Our kitchen is currently not licensed to be a commercial kitchen. Having a dishwasher

installed would be one more step in getting that license. Sarah Wheeler has been in contact with a professional baker that would like to rent the kitchen. We will be working on a plan to get the license completed.

- The Capital Committee will be set up this fall. Council members should let Sherri know if they are interested in being on the committee.
- Pastor Reggie and Gretchen Mitcham have been discussing changing the Sunday School structure. They are looking at proposing a 35 minute class every Sunday with the children being dismissed for Sunday School during the service and then returning at the end of the service. This would require parents to be at church for only one hour. Some parents are choosing not to come to church because of the two hour commitment with the current Sunday School and worship service schedule. Gretchen is putting together a survey for participating parents to see what their preference would be. If the schedule change would be made it would require a higher level of volunteer participation. Rich Lattener noted that this type of schedule is becoming popular across all denominations. Pastor Reggie stated that the current Sunday School schedule could be related to the smaller number of students in the confirmation program.

7:30 p.m. Transition and Call Process

- Pastor Joe Orner will be signing his contract on Thursday, June 11. He is excited to get started at COG. The Synod made it very clear that it is important for interims to get a two week "sabbatical" between calls. Pastor Joe indicated he would be willing to start on July 1, giving up his sabbatical. Pastor Reggie encouraged him to take those two weeks so he will be starting on July 13. Pastor Joe will be establishing a Transition Team and working with that team to write a Ministry Site Profile for COG. There was discussion on how to keep the Transition Team to a workable size if there are too many volunteers for the team. If that happens the team will need to be sized to include members based on good demographics of COG. Pastor Joe will serve as the Interim Pastor potentially through January. The hope is to call a new Associate Pastor in early 2027.
- One of the goals for the new year is to increase the weekly worship attendance to between 145 to 155. If that were to happen the possibility of adding a second service would be discussed.

7:45 p.m. Financial Updates: Sherri Eriksrud for Ashley Pederson

- YTD contributions are close to the budgeted amount.
- Grant Taylor will be available to go over his analysis, graphs and projection reports at the July Council meeting.
- An update was given on rental payments.
- Approximately \$1,400.00 has been received from the Twins fundraising.
- Wednesday dinners brought in over \$2,400 net for the program year.
- Starting March 1 health insurance coverage for Pastor Reggie's family will be reimbursed to him monthly.
- Council members are welcome to attend finance meetings.

7:58 p.m. Building Updates

- Pastor Reggie - The fire panel is not up to code per the City of Chaska. Neis Electric has not been updating the City on our annual fire checks although we have records showing the yearly inspections were done. Bob Chinnock is working on getting a bid from Gilbert Mechanical to get the fire panel up to code. Once that bid is received a decision will need to be made on whether to switch to the new vendor or to stay with Neis Electric. It will also need to be decided on where the funds will come from for the panel upgrade. The anticipated amount for the upgrade is approximately \$1,500.00 and \$1,800.00 for the required five year test.
- Bill Tyler - The quote from USA Security for security hardware is \$196,000.00. The security system grant we are applying for could be up to \$200,000.00. The Security Team includes Bill Tyler, Pastor Reggie, Bob Chinnock, Jerad Payne, Jenni Payne, Deb Trebiatowski and Matt Scherer. Simon from Kingswood Consulting sent an email asking for a security system priority list. The team's priorities were (1) exterior doors (cameras, keypads, intercom); (2) parking lot security (cameras); (3) interior door security (cameras, keypads); (4) interior cameras; (5) security barriers in front of the Sun Hall windows or film on the windows. Policies will need to be developed for different security situations. Simon will be presenting us with his assessment which is expected to be very thorough. After reviewing his assessment the priorities and focus may change. The application will be submitted in the next month and we should hear back on the grant in the fall. Thank you to Bill for all of his work on the security project!

8:15 p.m. Old Business: Sherri Eriksrud, President

- Rummage Sale - Flyers have gone up advertising the sale. There has been quite a bit of success in pre-sales on Facebook Marketplace. Sarah Morrow has an amazing team working on getting the rummage sale set up. We are partnering with His House on selling some items and will be sharing the proceeds on those items. So far there has been over \$300.00 in ticket sales for the quilt raffle as part of the rummage sale. More volunteers will be needed to work at the sale.
- More volunteers have signed up to work at Twins games. Those background checks are in the process of being completed.
- We plan on volunteering again at the Carver County Fair. Deb Peterson will be contacting the fair to see how we can participate this year.
- There has been very low participation in the Swag Store this time. There was discussion on possibly opening the store only once per year.

8:24 p.m. New Business: Sherri Eriksrud, President

- Rally Sunday - Gretchen Mitcham has put together a list of families that might want to help with the Rally Day Sunday Committee. Pastor Reggie is going to contact those families to see if they'd like to be involved. The Church Council members usually provide the Rally Sunday meal.

8:28 p.m. Ministry Team Liaison Updates

- Deb Mangen from the J & I Team shared that the next Peace Vigil will be scheduled for the fall. There is a small group meeting at the Peace Pole after each worship service.
- Hospitality Team members noted that the name tags seem to have gone over very well and have become a habit for members to sign and wear on Sunday mornings.

8:37 p.m. Closing

- The next Council meeting is scheduled for July 27 at 6:30 p.m. A Doodle poll will be sent out for the August meeting
- Rich Latterner volunteered to lead July's devotion.
- Pastor Reggie led the closing prayer.
- Deb Mangen made the motion to close the meeting; Rich Latterner seconded the motion.
- No discussion.
- All members present approved the motion.

Submitted by Kristi Kirsch 06/15/2026