



7/29/2025 - COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CALLED: 6:05 p.m. by Mikel Jones

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Reggie Klindworth, Mikel Jones, Sherri Eriksrud, Bob Chinnock, Eric Larson, Kristi Kirsch, Chad Lagow, Bill Tyler, Deb Mangen, Kate Peterson, Ashley Pederson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pastor Laura

6:00 p.m. – Meeting called to order by Mikel Jones

6:01: p.m. – Approval of the June Council Minutes

- Deb Mangen made the motion to approve the minutes, and Kristi Kirsch seconded the motion.
- All in attendance at the June meeting approved; no one objected.
- Kate Peterson was not at the June meeting and abstained.

6:03 p.m. – Financial Discussion

Treasurer's Report (Ashley Pederson)

Reporting:

Ashley provided a report outlining the performance by budget as a percent to goal. This report outlines results compared to the budget to date, not the calendar year. She is open to suggestions for other report needs.

Contributions:

We are ahead of the budget, mainly because people are giving more. We have met our budget goal every month except for February.

- Ashley has pulled together a report of people who gave in 2024 and have not yet given in 2025.
- The giving of these people last year equates to approximately \$30,000.
- She is turning that report over to Reggie.

Rent:

All rent is current.

Misc. Topics:

- VBS was held this month. Related expenses will be realized in August.
- The youth trip fund is dispersed. Reggie is contacting the Youth for remaining balances due.
- Bank Vista has a new banker assigned to our account named Brandon Wiltgren. He met with Ashley today and inquired about projects. Ashley communicated that the basement, the parking lot, and solar are all potential projects for the future. He is happy to meet and discuss.

6:25 Devotion (Sherri Eriksrud) The Lord's Prayer

6:32 p.m. Pastor Reggie's Report

Children's and Youth Ministries:

- A member donated a Thrivent Action gift to provide lunch for all the kids for VBS.
- Gretchen used the Judy Cook memorial gift, some donations, and rummage sale book donations to create a book area/library for the kids in the Kids' Corner.
- A group of parents would like to establish a Senior High Ministry. The focus will be on grades 8-12. The Senior High Group will meet once a month with activities both at the church and offsite.
- The Youth Room needs updating. The committee is asking the décor team for help with new furniture. There will be a meeting in August to work on the plan.

Welcome Team:

- The Welcome Ministry team has discussed introducing name tags. They have found a recyclable sticker nametag and have purchased some to use as a test.

Fire Suppression:

- The panel has been replaced and is now working.
- The cost was \$3600.
- Our history with the lifetime of the fire suppression unit working is 2.5 years for the last one and 8 years for the prior panel.
- They also completed the annual inspection when here.

Pastor Laura Sabbatical:

- Pastor returns from her sabbatical on August 4.
- She is currently in Pheonix where she is one of the voting candidates at the Churchwide gathering.
- She will preach her second Sunday back.
- She leaves 3 days after getting back for a preaching fellowship in Minneapolis.

Finance Committee:

Charter

- Reggie met with Grant, Jodi, Lori, and Mikel to discuss ongoing issues and agreed to establish a Charter for work between the Pastor and the Finance Team.
- Our Charters were established ten years ago, and we no longer have copies of those Charters.
- Rotations of people on teams/committees creates a lack of clarity on how the group should operate.
- The framework of the Charter was created by Lori Robinson, using a template provided by Chat GPT and includes the Finance Team, The Audit Team, and the Council.
- It provides guidelines for the group to follow to create clarity of roles and responsibilities and communication guidelines.
- The Charter hasn't been finalized, and the group will continue to work together to create a final draft. Once that is complete, it will be shared with the Council. The goal is to have it available for the August Council meeting.

Mikel Jones: He believes that this is valuable to provide information to make good decisions and it is also important to understand the duties of a Pastor in a church our size, including all the contracts to balance. He thinks this will help a new Council member coming in to understand the role of each team. The Finance team creates recommendations. The Council and Senior Pastor make decisions using the information provided to them.

Money Counting Practices

- The staff currently counts (started during COVID).
- Formerly, there was a counting team and practices to count that had more accountability.
- The Finance Committee has asked the hospitality team to provide two witnesses/signers to put the money in the safe when collected during service. It has been discussed to potentially go back to the pre-COVID way of counting, or update our current counting practices to provide more control and security.
- Grant proposed a new practice of leaving the offering at the altar and after the service, two members carry the money back together and drop it without counting.

Membership:

- Reggie has been tracking families who have left since 2021.
- Most departures have been because of a move. Grant calls this the “leaky bucket” in his financial modeling.
- An emphasis to mitigate this is inquiring why people are leaving and how do we keep them. 22 families which equates to 51 people have left since 2021.
- One third of the people who left departed because they did not agree with our COVID practices.
- Only one family has left this year. They left before the RIC vote because they did not want to be a part of that.

*See Pastor Reggie’s Senior Pastor Report for a complete reporting of this topic.

Bill Tyler: We should highlight the number of new families-that is a great story.

Pastor Reggie: This is reported to the Synod every year, along with baptisms.

6:55 New Business

Rally Sunday: (Mikel Jones)

- Jodi Sie, Rachel Berg Scherer, and Susan Larson have led this for 3 years and want to step away.
- We need to come up with a new sub-committee and pass the torch.
- Elements of the event usually include a Saturday meal, bounce house, Hooperina (hula hoop acrobat), golf outing, brunch on Sunday (provided by Council), and Bingo.
- Ministries are set up around the Sun Hall to be visited.
- Set up is Wednesday, September 6 and 7.
- Mikel has a spreadsheet outlining details from the past.
- The committee planned the event and then reached out for volunteers. We can follow the template or come up with new ideas.

Mikel Jones: Asked for a Council volunteer to be on the subcommittee to help plan.

Council Volunteers: Mikel Jones, Deb Mangen, Eric Larson

Eric Larson: Susan wanted to share that she would have input if the new committee had questions and she would be available as a resource to answer questions.

Group Discussion

Pastor Reggie: Suggested that Cindy Delforge may be willing to be on the committee. She was an active volunteer on the Rummage Sale committee. She is also on the décor team, along with David Delforge, although they may not have the time.

Maybe Brian Johnson would do a music set.

We can ask Gretchen for ideas from the parents of kids in the Spark program.

Mikel Jones: He thinks the focus should be inviting, fun, and good food. We don't need to go as late as 8:00. Next time we see the three former leaders (Jodi, Rachel, Susan), we should thank them.

Sherri Eriksrud: She suggested a 3-year rotation idea where we get a new committee of 3 people and if we could get a variation of rotation on the committee, we could always have an experienced member, one who had been on 2 years and had a year left, and a new committee member with new ideas. She also volunteered to be an active participant in helping with the programming decided on by the committee.

Church Directory: (Bob Chinnoek)

- In 2022 and 2023 there was a committee on this topic, but a directory never came to completion.
- Bob is interested in taking on this project
 - Pictures could be provided and uploaded by members for themselves.
 - We could use the Icon system which the church already has.
 - Offer both electronic and paper copy. Electronic format allows us to keep it up to date.
 - The large activity for the project is updating membership information.
 - There is a desire for members to update their own information.
 - The suggestion is for Council members to practice before roll-out.
 - There is a need to do this with appropriate security.
 - A small committee is requested to assist Bob in taking on this project.

Group Discussion

Eric Larson: We may need a permission form.

Pastor Reggie: An alternative option would be to go into Icon and use a google form to mail out and provide a link for members to complete electronically.

Ashley Pederson: A drawback of the Icon system, based on looking into this a couple of years ago, is that the app will not allow the user to upload their own picture. We would have to do this internally. This may have changed since last time.

Bob Chinnock: We could offer to use a phone to take pictures to take pictures for people after church.

Kate Peterson: Inquired about printing and the expense of that.
Pastor Reggie-we print in house.

Mikel Jones: It needs to be a connection tool, not a soliciting tool.

When up and running, it would be good to get our new members included and print a new copy that includes those members on the Sunday when they are welcomed at church.

Council Volunteers: Bob Chinnock, Kristi Kirsch, and Mikel Jones (after Rally Sunday is complete).

Fundraising: (Mikel Jones)

Carver County Fair

- All day shifts are covered.
- Need eleven more volunteers for Tues. p.m.

Twins Game

- There is a volunteer tomorrow with the biggest group so far.
- Some of the later events still need volunteers to fill the shifts.
- We have not seen the second check yet.

Blue Horizon Solar Presentation: (Mikel Jones)

- Thank you, Chad, for setting up the presentation.
- The overall impression is that this isn't impossible.
- There are lots of questions and input on how it relates to other projects. For example, the parking lot and the basement.

Group Discussion

Deb Mangan: We should look at a capital plan to include all future needs. People who have already donated to projects and see us take on a new project may be frustrated. She also asked if there is a current capital plan and it was confirmed that we do not have one.

Ashley Pederson: We received \$100,000 for the back property and spent \$70,000 on other infrastructure and the Council and Finance team at the time decided we should hold and save the rest of the money for the parking lot. Once we paid off member loans, it was set aside for a parking lot. The congregation vote created an understanding that money would be spent on the parking lot. There are no member funds donated specifically set aside for a parking lot.

Bob Chinnock: We don't see any future capital plans. It is possible that the city will not support a loan for solar because we have not completed the parking lot. The city requirement includes islands, trees, and expansion. We asked for a reprieve on the island.

Bill Tyler: Regarding the solar project, like Hal said, we should ask ourselves, "Why?"

Bob Chinnock: A financial analysis the first thing to take on.

Sherri Eriksrud: We should form a subcommittee for the solar project, made up of a member(s) of the Council, a member(s) of the finance committee, and others who have expertise and interest in the project.

It was agreed to start a Capital Project subcommittee, and the Solar discussion would be a part of that larger focus.

Council Capital Subcommittee Volunteers: Bob Chinnock, Bill Tyler, Kristi Kirsch, and Eric Larson Ashley will bring to the Finance Committee and ask for a volunteer.

It was suggested to create a list of questions to filter decisions through and create a framework for planning and decision making.

Mikel Jones: I appreciate a Council member coming to the table with ideas and looking forward.

Open New Business Discussion:

Deb Mangen: Reggie, you cut a lot out of the budget last year. Are there things that need to be added back?

Pastor Reggie: We cut a lot out of benevolence, and it would be great to add back in.

Deb Mangen: How about staffing positions?

Pastor Reggie: We went in the direction of just a Spark Ministry Director.

Mikel Jones: Additional staff will be discussed in the 2026 budget.

Pastor Reggie: A part time Senior High director would be a good position.

Ministry Team Updates:

Welcome Team

- It seems that some responsibility for the directory could include this team (Bob Chinnock)
- I got a call from a mom looking for a church. She shared that she has an autistic son. They came two weeks ago and wrote back to the church thanking Reggie for the welcome. She gave positive feedback on the acceptance of the children's activity and noise. (Pastor Reggie)

Justice and Inclusion Team-no update

Other Ministry Teams-open call for updates; no updates

7:50 Closing (Mikel Jones)

August Meeting: Mikel will send out a Doodle Poll

Devotion Volunteer: Bill Tyler

3rd Quarter (Fall) Crownicle Volunteer: Deb Mangen confirmed

4th Quarter (Winter) Crownicle Volunteer: Sherri Eriksrud (article due 11/3/25)

Closing Prayer: Pastor Reggie

Adjournment: Pastor Reggie moved to adjourn; Eric Larson seconded the motion; No discussion

Meeting Notes submitted by Sherri Eriksrud 8/10/2025