

COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

June 18, 2020

Call to Order & Roll Call

Present: Sandy Anderson, Ken Colberg, Dennis Engman, Wendy Fitzsimmons, Maia Hendrickson, Jeff Hovis, Mike Mathisen, Dan McMahon, Tim Orf, Mark Schuneman, Darrin Vick, Angie Way

Excused: Ken, Colberg, Jeff Montgomery, Michelle Sherman, Angie Way

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Devotions: Sandy opened with devotions and prayer. Highs and lows were shared by all.

Minutes for May approved.

Pastor Darrin's Report:

Our world is changing in many ways. The social unrest has been a topic of conversation with the church staff. Checked in with Donna and other people of color in our congregation. Donna met with the staff, and healthy conversations occurred. Donna feels loved by CGLC. She also shared things we do not see when we are not people of color. Our job is to be in the humble position of being a learner. Recommendation from Donna, "When you see something (injustice), say something." As Christians, we can have those hard conversations. The staff are committed to learning and listening.

Planning for this year is difficult because things keep changing. Although we like to have control and predictability, we must lean in to Jesus and listen to Him. Please pray for this journey.

A Grace Gathering happened last night. About 15 people plus staff attended. These sessions are intended to be simple, easy, relaxed, and a place for relational connection. We will experiment, learn and grow through these groups. The first drive-in service occurred, and we will do it again at 11 a.m. this Sunday for Father's Day. Thanks for being the church and for your leadership.

Pastor Angie's Report:

No report.

Core Team Reports

Children's Ministries: Wendy Fitzsimmons

Wendy prayed with Britta for the Flying Junction VBS individual camps and the leadership needs. They need two adults in every class and more volunteers so

Britta and Victoria will not need to attend every class. Classes run from July 13-Aug. 6. They have morning and evening time slots. Pray for filled positions.

Britta's family went to a camp of a friend, and it was a blessing. Please pray for her family.

Student Ministries: Dan McMahon

Summer schedules are the focus. Melinda is getting creative with activities while keeping health and safety in mind. They are planning a hometown mission trip if possible July 20-24. Other activities include hangout on Zoom, game night, bonfire, craft day, and collaborating with East Immanuel to serve the community. Most activities are outdoors and can be done in small groups. Many options are provided so the students can remain connected with the church family.

Adult Ministries: Jeff Hovis

The Ask Away event happened on May 26. Hannah and Melinda hosted it, and the panel included Pastor Darrin, Pastor Angie and Maia Hendrickson. Wide varieties of questions were raised including some about COVID-19 as well as general questions of faith. Based on comments monitored in the chat portion of the broadcast, people appreciated this event.

Groups: The first Grace Gathering was held on the south lawn on June 17. Pastor Darrin, Pastor Angie and Hannah led the gathering as an introduction for church members who might be interested in hosting similar gatherings in their neighborhoods. Additional introductory Grace Gatherings are coming on Wednesday, June 24 and July 1. They will be way for neighbors to engage in informal worship, prayer, discussion, support and communion. These groups provide an opportunity for missional outreach and personal connections that have been limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Grace Gatherings will follow recommended COVID-19 guidelines, and we will see where the Lord takes it.

Seniors: Ken Colberg

No report.

Worship: Tim Orf

We are taking creative steps with worship and adapting quickly. At our first outdoor gathering, we celebrated our high school graduates, enjoyed some singing, and shared communion. People are hungry to be together. It feels good to connect with God and one another. God is growing and refining His people. Noelle Norman has been leading worship, and she plans to pursue a degree in worship leadership.

Welcome/Hospitality: Dennis Engman

The Welcome Team and Group Core Teams are joining at the end of the month. Hannah indicated the church held their first funeral and watched how people reacted to the new restrictions. We will need to welcome people in some new ways.

Missions: Michelle Sherman

No report.

Infrastructure Reports

Treasurer and Stewardship Report: Mike Mathisen

Slightly behind our budget, but about \$34,000 ahead of last year. Expenses finished below budget by \$53,000. We have used about \$67,000 in SBA funds. In general, we are doing well financially. Jeff Montgomery will be working on the paperwork for the loan forgiveness.

Facilities: Mike Mathisen for Jeff Montgomery

No major items this month

Secretary's Report: Maia

No report.

Vice President's Report: Mark Schuneman

No report.

President's Report: Sandy Anderson

Discussed the service options proposed in Pastor Angie's document. We want to open the doors in ways that demonstrate love for our community and provide safety. When inside, we need people to come in and leave promptly. Transitions are a concern. Most survey respondents were in favor of smaller groups. Our online services will continue.

Planning to start an 8 a.m. Traditional Service starting on July 5 as a trial. We need help from the staff and council for ushering at this 8 a.m. service. We will evaluate this experience with a survey.

Sandy shared what other local churches are doing at this time. Most are easing into indoor services. Some are holding outdoor services presently or will very soon.

The flow of the indoor services will be very different. We can have up to 250 people in the church, but six feet of social distancing trumps all the regulations. We will use our outdoor space as much as possible. Facemasks will be provided for those who need one.

We have an opening on the Magnuson School Board. They meet monthly on a Tuesday. Please let Sandy know if you are interested.

Other new business: none

Pastor Darrin closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Next meeting: July 16 as a social event

Respectfully submitted by Maia Hendrickson