

Cross of Christ Church Council

Minutes of July 20, 2021 Meeting

Officers	P	A	Pastors	P	A	Cabinets	P	A	Cabinets	P	A
Eileen Hegland <i>(President)</i>	X		Linda McPeak	X		Amy Kulas <i>(Finance)</i>	X		Krin Abraham <i>(Personnel)</i>		X
Jill Hahn <i>(Vice President)</i>	X					Jessica Brand <i>(Youth & Family)</i>	X		Kathy Olson <i>(Worship & Music)</i>		X
Paige Markegard <i>(Secretary)</i>	X					Keith Herek <i>(C of C Building)</i>		X	Alysia Woodard <i>(Education)</i>		X
Patrick Forsyth <i>(Fin Admin)</i>	X					Wayne Runningen <i>(Stone Church Bldg)</i>	X		Heather Chapel <i>(Stewardship)</i>		X
Amanda Langheinrich <i>(Financial Sec)</i>		X				Trent Edwards <i>(C of C Grounds)</i>		X	Sue Ferris <i>(W/ELCA)</i>	X	
						Holly Westby <i>(Evangelism)</i>	X		Vacant <i>(Youth Rep)</i>		

President Eileen Hegland called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Pr. Linda's devotion was centered around the theme of Hoedown and Houston Hoedown Days. Why do we celebrate Hoedown? Why has the town kept the tradition for so long? Most said it's a gathering of family and friends and classmates. Hoedown also raises money and donates it back to the community. Where do we see God in this? In the volunteers, in the children, in the friendships. Pr. Linda ended her devotion with a Hoedown blessing.

1. REPORTS:

a. Senior Pastor's Report for May 18, 2021 – July 20, 2021

i. Membership Activity:

1. Funerals/Memorial Services: Jason Mark, June 5, 2021 (memorial)
June (Westby) Appinel, June 8, 2021 (graveside)
Marlene Morrison, June 10, 2021 (memorial)
Doris Marie Loken, June 18, 2021 (funeral)
Thelma Corrine Johnston, July 7, 2021 (funeral)
2. Baptism:

ii. Pastoral Acts (these are not all-inclusive, but intended to give the council a good deal of guidance) :

1. Visitations, sharing word and sacrament have resumed with extra care and caution.
2. In-person, online and phone Pastoral Care - Ongoing exchanges with youth, individuals and families who desire to be in conversation about how God is at work in their lives through health, healing, grief, faith questions, doubts, challenges, and formation.
3. Weekly staff meeting with Office Admin and Children's Ministry Director
4. \$224.35 deposited for Noisy Offering and Sunday School collection for ELCA Good Gifts donation.
5. Prepared and posted job opening for Director of Children's Education Ministries; Cross of Christ website, Facebook, Argus (in print and online, SEMN Synod website, and LaCrosse Area Synod website.
6. Worship & Music
 - a. Baccalaureate Service @ HHS, Wednesday, June 2, 2021
 - b. Graduating Senior Recognition, Sunday, June 6, 2021
 - c. Worship in the Garden; 6/9, 6/23, and 7/7. Cancelled 7/21 due to community event.

7. Weekly Church time, every Thursday at 10:00 am at VVHCR and Heritage Court in-person worship/church time.
 8. Meet Up and Eat Up continues Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Switched days with Free Church on July 7 due to funeral. Cancelled 7/14 due to severe weather.
 9. Houston Library placed story stroll books in the yard this week 7/19. We participated in the activity with the library last year.
 10. Women's Wellspring small group meets every other Saturday.
- iii. Participation in the ministry of our larger Church and Community:
1. Board meeting of the Houston Area Community Foundation Tuesday, June 8, and July 13.
- iv. Personal:
1. Vacation beginning following Sunday worship, August 8 - Monday, August 16, 2021. Guest Pastor Christopher Miller (Rochester) for Sunday, August 15; 8:30 Stone Church and 10:15 in town. Council leadership please meet, greet and assist him in providing worship leadership at both locations.

Respectfully submitted by Pastor, Linda McPeak

Pr. Linda wanted to highlight that she will be taking vacation on August 8 – 16. She will be here for church on the 8th, but will be out after that. She has asked a Pastor out of Rochester that will be doing the August 15th services at 8:30am and 10:15am.

- b. **President's Report:**
 - i. Eileen doesn't have a report. See cabinet updates below.
 - c. **Secretary's Report:**
 - i. *Jessica Brand made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2021 meeting. Sue Ferris seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*
 - d. **Financial Administrator's Report:**
 - i. June Results:
 1. We finished the month of June slightly better than budget. We had a deficit of (\$3,452) vs a plan deficit of (\$3,626). Giving was \$1,621 ahead of budget. Other revenue was slightly below budget. Expenses were slightly above budget overall; Stone Church repairs and landscaping expense at Cross of Christ were above budget.
 2. 2021 YTD: For the year, our deficit is (\$8,179) vs. a planned YTD deficit of (\$7,542).
 3. *Holly Westby made a motion to approve the June financial administrators report. Amy Kulas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*
 - e. **Financial Secretary's Report:**
 - i. Amanda Absent. Financial report is included in council packet.
2. **CABINET REPORTS:**
- a. **Education:**
 - i. Alysia absent. No report.
 - b. **Evangelism:**
 - i. Holly had nothing new to report.
 - c. **Finance:**
 - i. Amy had nothing new to report.
 - d. **Personnel:**
 - i. Krin absent. No report.
 - e. **C of C Grounds:**
 - i. Trent absent. No report.
 - f. **C of C Building:**

i. Basement Furnace Update from Keith Herek:

- What Tyler (Winona Controls) did included:
 - removed the burners at cleaned them at his shop
 - cleaned the pilot flame
 - cleaned the thermocouple
 - checked to make sure the exhaust was working properly
 - checked the gas pressure
 - checked the heat exchanger for leaks
 - checked the CO levels
- After doing this, he said the furnace ignited much better, but was still not 100%. He tried igniting it 5-6 times and one time it didn't ignite as well as it should. He believes there may be some blockage in the crossover tube that's causing this. He's planning on coming back next week to look at that.
- A few things he did recommend:
 - we should have CO detectors installed, especially by the unit. With gravity vent systems, this is highly recommended. These are relatively inexpensive and we could get a few for throughout the church.
 - there was a lot of rust and corrosion inside the furnace unit. Insulating the ductwork would help minimize this.
- I did ask Tyler what the lifespan of a furnace like this typically is and he said 15-20 years. It looks like this furnace unit is 19 years old, so it's nearing the end of its life. I don't think we need to replace this immediately, but we're probably going to have to do this in the not too distant future.
- That's all I can think of for now. If you have any questions/concerns, let me know.

Submitted by,
Keith Herek

1. Next Steps: Keith and the Properties cabinet will keep discussing this and will let us know if they recommend that we replace the unit.

ii. Upstairs Furnace:

1. About two weeks ago, Pr. Linda noticed that there was a leak on the floor upstairs coming from the AC/Furnace unit off of the kitchen upstairs. It did leak down through the floor into the main kitchen, but Tom McPeak and Pr. Linda were able to get it shut off and the mess cleaned up. The condensate pan had a crack in it. Chris Schroeder ordered the part, but it won't be in for 5 weeks. This is an issue as VBS is the first week in August. We likely need to temporarily fix the pan so the furnace/AC unit can be running during VBS. Pr. Linda asked Amanda to reach back out to the properties/buildings cabinet to get the unit temporarily fixed so it can be used for VBS. We need to use this space, so this is crucial.

iii. Tile in Fellowship Hall:

1. Is being installed this week. It should be done on Wednesday, 7/21.

g. Stone Church:

i. Star Gazing:

1. Wayne reported that the Friends of the Nature Center would like to do Star Gazing out at the Stone Church on August 6th. They are wondering if we can shut the lights off at the stone church, so that the star gazing is better. Wayne said that the lights are on a timer, and they don't know where the shut off is for the lights. There is likely a breaker for the lights, but will this screw up the timer? Wayne will reach out to LeRoy or Wayne Olson to see if they know where the shut off is. We will plan to just have them shut off that night and then turn them back on. Once he has an answer, he will call Amanda to let her know so she can follow up.

ii. Black Mold:

1. This has been taken care of. It was painted with Kilz and then repainted to match everything. It looks nice.

iii. Railing/Support for the Balcony:

1. This is for the stone church board to discuss. The balcony railing is very low and is potentially dangerous as a small child could fall down the side. The Stone Church cabinet will discuss options for this project.

h. Stewardship & Missions:

- i. Heather Chapel has been appointed as the new chair of the stewardship cabinet.

i. Worship & Music:

- i. Kathy's Report is below:
June 30th

Worship and music Committee. All members in attendance.

Any questions from below could be fielded to me, thru email -answered after July 26th, or if Eileen /Pr. Linda are interested in expanding during council meeting.

- Review of ushering ministry- in the works. Update that Eileen, Jim Edwards, Pr. Linda and Ron met about ushering needs;
 - 2 ushers, more people- not just men-families too.
 - Suggest having volunteers pick a Sunday not a month. In fall, more formal structure to sign-up.
- Resuming traditional Holy Communion set up, distribution, and clean up beginning this Sunday, July 1.
 - For summer, 2 sets of volunteers -one set per service.
 - i. Pr. Linda had mentioned 4 for Stone Church. Kathy has 3 people for 1015 town.
 - Past volunteers (from 2020 email list, excluded 2 that help out a lot) were asked about helping with summer/future interest in communion, thru email. No email errors seen. 3 people responded about helping for summer and next year. Rest (15) no response.
 - Will post note about Communion helpers about Mid-August in Echos/Whispers and Sept bulletin will also post needs
 - Any ideas from council?
- Review of "All Creation Sings" hymnal supplement
 - Pr. Linda walked group thru new areas along with fielding questions from committee.
 - Organist, pianist look through.
- Discuss online service needs.
 - Trouble shoot sound from organ/piano. Gayle will touch base with AV staff.
 - Discussed visual topics. Pr. Linda reviewed our abilities regarding what we can create with current tech items. Jake will be watching a bit to help out.
- Pew shortening for worshipers with mobility supports (wheelchair and walkers)
 - group discussed and approved
- Resuming other worship elements;
 - sharing the peace, Kyrie, Gospel acclamation, chanting the Psalm
 - Offertory and plate collection,
 - Lamb of God/Holy Holy Holy (communion responses)
- Discuss post worship fellowship gathering in the Fall.
- Choir resuming.
 - Jake and Eileen met to discuss choir needs, church musical calendar, Contemporary Sunday/Special music and new hymnal/music needs.

j. Youth & Family:

- i. Jessica reported that in June we had several families go to a Loggers game. They had a good time. We have 12 punches left on a card for any game. They can go to the window and exchange a punch for a ticket. Pr. Linda suggested that we put this in the weekly

Echoes and Whispers newsletter so people know that they can come to the church office to pick up the punch card and use and then bring back the card with any leftover punches.

k. **W/ELCA:**

- i. Susan reported that WELCA is planning on doing the fall supper. It will be take-out only. They may set up some picnic tables outside if the weather is nice and families want to site outside and eat together.

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**

a. Bingo:

- i. If we make any money from running Bingo at Hoedown, what do we want to do with it? We could give it to the Houston Nursing Home, the Houston Area Cancer Society, the Houston Foundation, the United Campaign, the Houston High School for Athletics, etc. Many said it would be nice to have something listed at the Bingo stand so people know where the money is going. Patrick said that Bingo typically brings in around \$1700. We should pick 2 or 3 and split it evenly. Do we want to do one for the old and one for the young? Heather suggested the Houston Athletic Boosters and one for the Houston Area Cancer Society.
- ii. *Holly Westby made a motion to split the profits between the Houston Area Cancer Society and the Houston Athletic Boosters. Wayne Runnigen made a motion. Motion carried unanimously. It was discussed that we can change the organizations next year.*
- iii. Jim is still looking for one person to volunteer on Sunday from 1:15 to 2:45. He is also looking for help setting up the bingo tables on Thursday night at 6pm. They will be meeting at the fest grounds to load and move them over to the park.
- iv. Pr. Linda also asked Patrick and Amy if Jim had contacted them about the money collection/storage for the meeting. He has not It is our policy to not let people take the money home. Amy and Patrick will talk tomorrow about a strategy. Jim could likely drop this in the bank drop box each night.

b. God's Work Our Hands:

- i. This is just to serve as a reminder that we are planning to participate in this on Rally Sunday, September 12th. Each cabinet is encouraged to come up with one or more projects that can be done at the church or around the community. Any and all options are encouraged. Please send ideas to Pr. Linda and Eileen. People will then sign up for the activities that they are interested in. It's almost August and September will be here before we know it. Deadline for ideas is August 17th. If you are going to be absent, then email it to Eileen.
 1. Eileen made a suggestion for Jessica to maybe check with the school on items that they need for their classrooms. Jessica suggested that we collect money and snack items for their snack breaks in each classroom. Jessica will contact Rick Bartz to see if there is anything that the school needs. She will report back so we can start collecting thing and get the word out to the congregation.
 2. Holly wants to do Highway cleanup. She would like some youth participation. 8 people minimum. The more the merrier.
 3. Jill contacted Able and they have lots of things that they need help with. They have four residents. They are short staffed right now and have lots of ideas that they need help with, like window cleaning, weeding, etc. One resident would also like to help out with the chores. They will get back to Jill with a list of ideas.
 4. Amy suggested that we need someone in the church preparing food for the workers. This would be something good for the youth to help with.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Appoint Heather Chapel to Stewardship Cabinet.

- i. *Pr. Linda made a motion to appoint Heather Chapel as the new representative for the Stewardship Cabinet. Holly Westby seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

5. **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

a. None.

6. **Upcoming Events:**

- a. July 20 Church council
- b. July 21, August 4 Worship in the Garden

- c. July 21, 22, 26, 28, 29, August 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 16 Meet Up & Eat Up
- d. July 19, 26 August 5, 12 VVH&R/HC worship service
- e. July 21, 28, August 4, 11 Prayer group
- f. July 25 No Service at Cross of Christ Parade line up, Queens Tea
- g. July 25, August 8 Worship Service; August 1, 15 Holy Communion (Stone Church and
- h. Cross of Christ)
- i. July 31, August 14, 28 Women's Wellspring
- j. August 2-5, 8 VBS
- k. August 9 Ruth Circle
- l. August 5 Executive meeting-Note: Special Date change
- m. August 13-14 Breakfast of Owls
- n. August 17 Church council
- o. Apollo August 17-29; Concerts August 20, 22, 27,29
- p. Pastor Linda Vacation August 9-16

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Markegard, Secretary

CROSS OF CHRIST CONGREGATION COUNCIL