

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Council Members

Tom Blackburn, president	Patty Rohde, secretary	Susan Dickinson, treasurer
Pastor Cover	Marti Bert	Cody Fickes*
Sue Gasswint	Randy Hamme	Karen Hubbard
Rick Keen	Susan Ryder	Barb Schell
Nevin Shenck	Tom Zimmerman	

*Denotes absent

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Susan Ryder, 2nd by Sue Gasswint to adopt agenda as submitted. Motion carried

Devotions – opening prayer led by Pastor Cover

Mission Moment - New Council member orientation is typically our first mission moment, however, that is difficult to do under the current conditions. Pastor sent a video to all new members instead.

Action Items:

- Elect officers and otherwise reorganize. A new president needs to be elected as Tom has served 2 terms already, but officers will take office at the conclusion of the meeting since new officers are not prepared to run this meeting yet. All are in agreement. Voting was done privately through Email or the chat function on Zoom. New officers are: Susan Ryder, President; Tom Blackburn, vice president; motion by Marti Bert, 2nd by Susan Ryder to elect Patty Rohde as secretary, motion carried; motion by Barb Schell, 2nd by Patty Rohde to elect Susan Dickinson as treasurer, motion carried.
- Capacity for Sunday Service – The Governor and the Bishop approved 50% capacity for church services, which for our Congregation would be upwards of 100 for the 9:30 service. So, increasing capacity to 75 is within guidelines. Ed feels he can keep the Sanctuary clean to specifications with a number of 75, and we could open the balcony to allow people to spread out more. We have not had attendance of 25 on a regular basis so far. We would then be able to eliminate the sign ups and people might feel better about coming to church who may have been staying home in order to save a seat for someone else. Motion by Susan Ryder, 2nd by Sue Gasswint to change capacity to 75 for the 9:30 Service and open the balcony. Motion carried.
- Use of Kentland for rentals – There have been requests coming in to rent Kentland from regular renters for the Fall season. There is a suggestion to open to 1 renter per week and have the organization sign a waiver as well as have the renter follow a clean-up checklist for high touch areas. This would not conflict with the Sunday evening service

as that service does not use indoor spaces. Motion by Marti Bert, 2nd by Rick Keen to begin renting Kentland to 1 renter per week, have the renter sign a waiver, and have the renter clean high touch surfaces before leaving. Motion carried.

- 2021 Budget – Susan Dickinson will share a spread sheet of projected budget numbers with Council members next month. We need to start to think about the budget in order to be prepared for the January meeting.
- Committee liaisons need to be assigned to Council members. This will be done in the next month.

Reports

A. President's Report – Introduction of new Council members. Discussion about installation of Council members – any member who feels comfortable can come to the service and those who do not will participate through the stream service with pictures on the screen. The installation will be at the 9:30 Service on 9/27.

B. Secretary's Report

- a. Evote: minutes August 10, 2020 Council regular meeting. Motion to approve by Tom Blackburn and 2nd by Pastor Cover. Motion carried.
- b. Evote: minutes August 31, 2020 Council special meeting. Motion to approve by Tom Zimmerman and 2nd by Tom Blackburn. Motion carried.
- c. Notes September 7, 2020 executive committee meeting

C. Vice-president's Report

D. Treasurer's Report – See attached report. Susan Dickinson provided a summary of the way the budget report works along with a summary of the Cares Act loan the church received. The refinancing of the Capital Campaign is still in process. Susan will check on it and report back. Motion by Susan Ryder, 2nd by Rick Keen to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried

E. Pastor's Report – Sunday school update: elementary school Sunday School will be online that families can use with their children at any time. Youth group is meeting monthly between Zoom and in-person meetings. The Youth group theme is "step into it". Family Promise is working on evicting the current family as they are not paying their rent and utilities and has been uncooperative. Terry Snyder has a question about continuing this relationship with Family Promise. That discussion is upcoming. Boy Scouts would like to begin meeting again. A procedure needs to be established for them to return. The Kentland Service cannot be moved indoors to the social hall due to singing and the ventilation issues. The Kentland service will remain outdoors until it gets too cold and then probably take a break until the weather gets nice again.

F. Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry Report

G. Director of Music Report

H. Committee/Task Force Reports

- a. Kitchen (Audrey Egley/ Marti Bert)
- b. Children, Youth & Family Ministry (Melinda Bechtel/ Sue Gasswint)

- c. Endowment (Linda Lippert/ ??)
- d. Faith Connection (Julie Flook/ ??)

e. Fellowship and Arts (Hope Pankake/ Tom Zimmerman) - Sandy Robison is retiring from the committee after many years of her time and talent. So we want to thank her for that. Our committee is having a thank you card shower and I'm going to submit a thank you note for grace news. That means we need a new committee member so suggestions are welcome.

- f. Finance & Budget (Susan Dickinson)
- g. Personnel (John Gabler/ Nevin Shenck)
- h. Property (??/ Cody Fickes)
- i. Social Ministry (Brigitte Storey/ ??)
- j. Stewardship (Brigitte Storey/ Rick Keen)
- k. Worship & Music (Beth Jury/ ??)
- l. 1604 Task Force (Terry Snyder)
- m. Advice on financial matters (Tracey Alfano-Douty)

Other Business

Adjournment – Motion by Susan Ryder, 2nd by Barb Schell to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.