

Minutes for Church Council Meeting

August 9, 2021

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

204 N Main St

Columbia City, IN 46725

Attending: Pastor Matt Converse, President Larry Weiss, Mark Krider, Tom Straub, Bill Owen, Dave Hockerman

We elected to postpone discussion of Chapter 4 and 5 of the Abundance book readings until the September meetings.

Minutes of the June Council meeting (the July meeting was cancelled) were reviewed and approved with minor revisions.

Pastor Matt presented his report highlighting the resumption of the Stewardship for All Seasons Zoom meetings and program. He also presented the Employee handbook, including revisions that were suggested at the June Council meetings. Bill Owen moved that we adopt the Handbook as revised, and Mark Krider seconded the motion. The council voted unanimously to adopt the Handbook.

Mark Krider presented the July year to date financial statements which were accepted subject to audit. Mark then discussed how the Finance Team had interviewed and evaluated 3 potential new fund managers for handling the Meiser Trust Fund, since the term of that Trust has now expired, and Grace is responsible for the management of the fund going forward. There were also phone conversations with the legacy holder of those funds. Mark presented the Finance Team's recommendation in the form of a motion that we select JP Morgan Chase to hold and manage the (former) Meiser Trust fund. Tom Straub seconded the motion. The council vote was unanimous in favor of JP Morgan Chase managing the (former) Meiser Trust fund.

There was also some discussion as to what the fund should be called going forward. At least for the time being, we decided to refer to the fund as the Grace Legacy Fund. We also agreed that one of the objectives we have for the fund is to grow it through donations and planned giving by those wishing to leave a lasting legacy that will continue to serve the church and the community.

Dave Hockerman read a report from pre-school director Kirsten Jines to the council. Classes start Monday, August 23 with preliminary enrollment census of about 23 children. Several potential additional students have also expressed intent to enroll. A parent on-site orientation is being held Tuesday August 17 at 7:00 pm. Kirsten shared responses from an end-of-year survey from last term's children's parents. These responses were overwhelmingly positive with mentions of how much their child had progressed in the time they were in Grace pre-school. Kirsten also shared an "Amazon Wish List" of needed materials which is accessible from the Grace Lutheran Church Preschool Facebook page.

We also had a discussion on the worsening Covid-19 situation and how masking, social distancing, singing, in-person worship, etc. might be impacted. We agreed that we will watch the data, especially

the Covid-19 data for Whitley County, and make the appropriate decisions as we gain more clarity on the potential hazards to our church family from the new Covid “variants”.

Respectfully submitted
David Hockerman