

Council Minutes
June 12, 2025 4:45
Outdoor Picnic Meeting on the Patio

Error correction 6/30/25 in red in Bluegrass section

Members attending: Mary Koepke, Dave Johnston, Pastor Tom, Ron Egelseer, Steve Stretz, Scott Siegrist, Susie Grulke, Sonja Daly. Guest: Mary Hershoff to review prairie project.

Prayer partners – “Where have you seen God at work this week?”- highs & lows

- Wild Church went very well, a little windy. God at work at All Peoples. Used Thrivent card to purchase fresh produce. They had Youth Works groups there and they wanted to have enough produce to give out. Steve talked to youth leaders from Minnesota and Kansas (from memory). Sonja’s new kitten. People noticed Scott’s Chosen T-shirt

Devotion: Pastor Tom, Where are we in life?

- Celebrating now, celebrating life. Crossing from one phase of life to the next. Small group with Marquette “Finishing Well”.

Recite: Our mission “Sharing God’s Love, Caring for Community”

Approve minutes: Review/approve previous meeting minutes

- John C motion to approve, Dave 2nd, all approved.

Next Meeting: Aug. 14, 2025 We will skip July.

Next Devotion: Mary

Key discussion items:

Ministry—

Belize Mission Team 2026—who’s going, fundraising, projects, materials

- Had meeting last night, half the team. Have a good team. 2 moms and daughters going again, Have women and men able to do a variety of tasks. Could use another worker or two. Working on a couple people one from golf and softball. January 2026 still the date.

Montana youth trip, Scholarship program, etc.

- Gavin is now going, 2 Gavins. Coming together.
- Scholarship program going well. Thanks to those working. 10 applicates 8 for \$1000. 2 for \$750. It is estimated that we will have adequate funds. Dave suggested we get process done sooner for people that may get matching funds.
- Parsonage has a rat infestation. Property will need to address – get exterminator. John talked about alternate solutions that he used, traps and moth balls.

Prairie/Wild Church—Follow up questions, concerns after presentation and survey, Mary H has been asked to attend

- Got 33 surveys. Summarize them, handed out at the meeting. People are positive. Want natural, native outdoor setting. Trees not too important. Name went over well. Many thoughtful comments. Next meeting 29th after services. John will draw up basic layout of the area.
- Sonja has lannon stone available that they will not use if it could be used. Looking for other donations and memorial tree donation to help on cost. Talked about plaque by the trees for those that gave. Some ongoing discussion about various options.

Ice Cream Social

- Going very well. Nicole working on advertising, WTKM, working with George on Facebook. Putting out fliers. Making sloppy Joe again. Tad and Vonnie applied for Thrivent cards.

Memorials & Fund resolution:

Review of Continuing Resolution/Disposition of Memorial Gifts, update from Steve.

- The book to record memorial donations came in. Very nice. 3 things left to do, short procedure for recording, a preamble for the book and a flyer. Flyer should go to family having funerals at St. Olaf also so funds come directly to memorial fund.

Fund raiser—Sonja

- 28 boxes 5 left. 7 boxes taken to work, various people. \$1104. So far, plan to purchase another 10 boxes, for Ice Cream social / also need mint ones that go fast.. Work matches so will double amount. Plan to submitting for matching funds soon.

Index of resolutions, policies, and statements—follow up?

- Have everything in one place but need to finish process.

Bluegrass festival

- Scott will be available to sell things. ~~John~~ Ron will run dunk tank. Flyer put together.
- Plan to move tent over a bit to have more room for in between band.
- Youth next to wine and beer – same area for drinks, soda, etc.

Long range planning meeting June 3rd

- What non-denominational churches have to offer. Emphasis on small groups. Reaching out to community. Low attendance in other churches. Next meeting 17th. Some can't make next meeting, St. Ben's, gone but will get deeper into specific.

Youth & Family Ministry – Montana trip, Scholarships, anything else?

- Montana trip. Kristin just sent out final information to youth. Artwork for T shirts is done by Bailey. Great design! Will have meeting soon to finalize travel information. 10-12 going.

Worship and Music—Thoughts /reactions after the first “Wild Church”

- Worked on plans for future services. Need people for messages or testimonies. Will have 2 more outdoor services, weather permitting, on conjunction with Ice Cream Social and Bluegrass.

Mission Fund Team –

Recommendations for donations. See information from Paul C.

- \$4100. Available. \$500 Medical Missions, \$500 to Redeemer in escrow, \$1000 to \$500 for All Peoples Gathering Church, \$1000. to Lutherdale, \$500 Breaking the Chains. This will leave a little over \$1000. For other ministries. Jane would like to see more going to Mission. In counting it seems little given to Mission.
- Discussion, Medical Missions donation. Mary talked to Peggy and suggested using half to Medical Missions for their expenses and ½ to Peggy for travel. Peggy's original request at the annual meeting was a donation Medical Mission for their expenses. Travel wasn't mentioned. A yearly amount was not approved. It will be voted on each year. Steve motion to approve, John 2nd all approved.
- *** See Addendum below ***

Property Committee – Parsonage driveway? Suggested budget for this? Other projects?

- Nothing being done. Discussion about replacing parsonage drive way or repair. Getting \$12850 for JAC seal coating for church drive. Parsonage will be included. Got quote. Jerry getting another quote. No motion made. Get quote to Jerry to review. Should make decision soon, can be done by email.
- *** See Addendum below ***

Finance update—

- Scholarship work done. Investments up about 6% other funds doing ok. Checking doing OK. Good we move some money to UW, higher interest rate, worked out well.

Vision Fund—

- No report. we have CD, money from Marquette. Finance managing. July 16th CD matures. Have to make decision on that. Plan now is to roll into another money market account. Aug. 2nd CD comes due for Child Smile. That has been doing well. Will move that CD into money market account.

Thrive Team-

- No meeting / no report

Opportunities: Ashippun Fire Dept calendar. Thank you, Scott!

- We have our advertisement in the calendar

Closing: Lord's Prayer

Addendum / follow up after meeting

- **Medical Missions:** after the meeting there was more discussion about how the \$1000. (\$500 from the Mission Fund and \$500 from Women of Grace) would be distributed. After the meeting the idea was to split it. A following email indicated that it should all go to Medical Missions for expenses. Then we were asked to split it. The final decision was that the money will be split, ½ to Medical Missions for expenses and ½ to Peggy for travel expenses. A yearly donation was not approved, per the minutes. It will be voted on each year.
- **Coating parking lot and parsonage drive:** after the meeting it was assumed that the coating was approved with JAC. Jerry approved the quote and work proceeded. However, this project was not approved at the meeting (see minutes above). After finding out, and after the fact, an email vote was done and the coating was unanimously approved. Also, JAC wanted payment right after completing the project. This was not considered. However, John was contacted and payment was made. This project is complete.