



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

7/21/26

Present: Pastor Ben Sandin, Terri Revell, Morgan Holle, Rachel Henderson, Allison Isenberg, Melissa Johnson, Rebecca Nygren, Julie Lent

Call to Order: Terri called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Opening Devotion: Allison led us in devotions/prayer

Adoption of the Agenda: Rachel added a financial topic to new business. Melissa made a motion to adopt the addended agenda. Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Completed via email 7/1/26: Rachel made a motion to approve minutes from the 6/16/26 council meeting. Melissa seconded the motion. Motion carries.

How will council work going forward?

- Work collaboratively with ideas from everyone
 - Focus on the vision and future and partnering together
 - Strong staff and council with mutual trust, growing together
- Prioritize work that needs to be done in person vs. can be done via email, etc.
- Time considerations for meetings
- Helpful to have at-large members each have specific tasks that they are responsible for
- Ideas - council bible study, devotion
- Potential council and staff retreat in early November

Old Business

- Air conditioners
 - Quote for \$6500 to repair kitchen air conditioner; Morgan will get a quote from congregation member
 - Morgan will get a quote to replace the air conditioning unit for the youth room and 2 daycare offices
- Lawn mowing
 - Pastor Ben will work on volunteers
- Ditch area
 - Was not cleaned during clean-up day; plan to do fall clean-up

- Fire system bids
 - Morgan received a second bid that was \$220,000. Morgan recommends moving forward with IFS as we have been working with them in the past. Their bid was \$56,000
- Keys
 - The correct invoice should be coming tomorrow to order the door knobs, etc. needed to re-key the entire church.
- Phone system
 - Rachel will get a quote to include a landline phone as part of our current plan. This will help if we have a volunteer to answer the phones during the week.
 - Nate got 2 quotes for other systems that were not financially viable
- Ben's installation update
 - Plans are moving forward for Ben's installation after-party on September 20; it will be pot-luck style with more details to come
- Rally day/Trunk or Treat
 - September 13 - Staff has been discussing this. This will be a volunteer celebration BBQ with a list available of things that congregation members can volunteer for. Celebrate and spotlight volunteers throughout the year.
 - October 10 - Fall Festival (instead of Trunk or Treat). Invite churches within our space and community members

REPORTS

Executive Team Reports:

Treasurer's Report

MONTH	Actual	Budget	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	Actual	Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
General/Building Fund:	Jun-26	Jun-26		Jun-25	
Offerings/Receipts	50,884	81,029	(30,146)	51,709	(825)
Expenses	(49,274)	(53,465)	4,191	(48,944)	(330)
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$1,610	\$27,565	(25,955)	\$2,765	(\$1,155)

YEAR TO DATE	Actual	Budget	Budget Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	Actual	Prior Year Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
General/Building Fund:	Jun-26	Jun-26		Jun-25	
Offerings/Receipts	286,684	305,675	(18,991)	282,677	4,008
Expenses	(315,495)	(341,490)	25,995	(330,351)	14,857
Net Gain/(Loss)	(\$28,810)	(\$35,815)	\$7,005	(\$47,674)	\$18,864

Notable June Activity:

- **For the month of June**, receipts were higher than expenses.
 - Total offering for the general/building fund for the month was \$35,598. This was lower than budget by \$5,138.
 - Other income (building use, grants, interest, etc.) was \$15,286. This was lower than budget by \$25,008.
 - *3 year projected budget still includes ERC funds received in June 2023 which slightly throws this off.
 - Expenses are favorable to budget this month, and favorable to prior year.
- **For June year to date**, receipts are lower than expenses, resulting in a YTD loss of \$28,810.
 - Total offering for general/building fund YTD is \$202,686. This is lower than budget by \$16,993
 - Other income YTD is \$83,998. This is lower than budget by \$1,998.
 - Expenses are favorable to budget YTD and favorable to prior year.
- Q2 highlights (April-June)
 - Offering is lower than budgeted by: \$8,469
 - Other income is lower than budgeted by: \$18,285
 - Expenses are lower than budgeted by: \$19,779
 - Accounts with spending beyond Q1+Q2 projected budget: Administration
 - Accounts with spending beyond total 2026 budget: Worship/Music/Video, Leadership and Development
- Unrestricted cash balances available at the end of June were \$29,995.

Pastoral Report:

- Warm Welcome: Thank you to everyone at PoP for the warm welcome as I have begun my ministry among you. The Call Committee, Council, staff, and congregation members have all been great. We are settling into our new home and I already feel a great connection to the people of PoP. Thank you all!
- Listening Campaign: Great many thanks for all you have already signed up and meet with me. I have completed 1-1 conversations with 32 people, and it has been a privilege to hear people's stories, their connections to PoP, and insights for how we can move forward in partnership. As the process continues, I will share some patterns that emerge

and discuss possible steps to take next with the council and staff. At the conclusion of the campaign (September) I wish to hold a congregational forum to share what we have heard and discern together faithful next steps.

Ministry Team Reports:

Library - no report

Funeral team - some funerals upcoming; no concerns or questions.

Garden team - no report

Global Ministries - Tanzania 2026

We had a great trip to Tanzania. Some highlights were our visit to Machame Lutheran Hospital where we shared bags we had made filled with baby blankets, etc. with the new mothers in the maternity ward.

We visited both Neema Orphanage and Amani Home for Street Children. We attended church at Nkweshoo Lutheran Parish participating in their auction and enjoyed a great lunch with the congregation. One of our favorite missions is one started by Prince of Peace - Houses for Health. When people are sick it is not healthy to go home to a mud home with dirt floors. We donate money to build them a brick home with a cement floor in hopes it improves their health.

We will be building our 201st home for a gentleman who has multiple conditions - I have included his picture in front of his current home. We will share a picture of his new home when it is completed. We enjoyed a couple days safari and ended with a stay at the Massai Village Lodge to learn about the Massai culture.

Thank you for all your support and prayers. If you are interested in attending a trip, please contact Terri Revell.

Local Ministries:

CEAP News - School Supply Drive will go through August 9th

Care Team

- Terri has compiled an updated Care Team List, as well as shared an updated Angel Watch List with Pastor Ben
- Pastor Ben, Terri and Melissa plan to meet at the end of August to discuss Care Team

Altar Guild - No Report

Coffee Team - People have been stepping up to volunteer this summer!

Staff Reports

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILY MINISTRY - June 2026

PRAISES from PAST Events

- We had a wonderful June with three weeks of DayCamp, one fellowship event for Middle/High School (Valleyfair), one service event for Middle/High School (Work Day at Church) and four weeks of Childrens Ministry on Sunday Mornings
- So far in July we have had another two weeks of DayCamp, another service day (Crisis Nursery Enrichment Activity and Cook for Kids) and two more fellowship days (Bunker Beach and Wild Mountain) for Middle/High School

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Summer Ministry is still going strong

- CHILDRENS MINISTRY: Summer DayCamp started on June 8th. Jess Boland is back as our DayCamp staff and our hours are 8:30 - 5:30 (T-Th) and 7:30 - 2:30 (F). These hours meet the needs of our current registrants, and will change IF the needs of those registered change.
Childrens Ministry will have SOMETHING every Sunday morning. Two Sundays a month they will be pulled out like they are all school year. One-two Sundays a month they will have the FAITH SPACE (where they stay in Worship but have a specific project) One-Two Sundays a month they will have Activity Bulletins and Coloring Pages available. This was slightly different in July due to Miss Katie's schedule
- YOUTH MINISTRY: Middle School and High School Ministry will meet MOST Wednesdays during the day and alternate between Fellowship and Service. Our Fellowship Events are Valleyfair (x2), Wild Mountain and Bunker Beach. Our Service Days are a work day at Church, Crisis Nursery of Minneapolis, Kids in Need Foundation and Loaves and Fishes.
- Since Summer is a huge season for sports, I will also be attending Softball, Baseball, Soccer, and maybe some Lacrosse games as my schedule allows

CAMP WAPO is approaching quickly as our SEEDS Campers will head to Camp for the weekend of July 24th-26th and our Weeklong Campers will head to WAPO/OX Lake from July 26th-31st. I will be there from the 24th-27th and then back on the evening of the 29th-31st.

- We have 5 SEEDS Campers (completed 1st-3rd grade) with one new camper this year. The other 4 are returning SEEDS Campers
- We have 7 YOUTH Campers (completed 4th-8th grade) with one new camper this year. 2 have graduated up to WEEKLONG from SEEDS and the other 4 are returning week long campers
- We have 7 HIGH SCHOOL Campers (completed 9th-12th grade) with all of them returning to WAPO, but 5 of them are first time OX Lake Campers

LOOKING AHEAD

- Fall Ministry is swirling in my head, but we will really get working on it when I return from Vacation in early August. Most likely it will look very similar to years past
- Affirmation of Baptism is set for Sunday, October 25th during our Morning Worship
- Working on plans for Fall Fellowship opportunities. Working on all those in collaboration with other leadership
- Will be working on connecting with College Aged students to hopefully boost our commitment to them
- Will be working on adding some energy to High School Ministry

New Business

- Financial updates
 - Income is not supporting the expenses
 - Aging building with deferred maintenance is costly
 - Recommendations include a decision to bring to a congregational vote:
 - Premier bank can offer us a lower interest rate 6.75% for a 20 year loan. We would recommend moving forward with the process to refinance with Premier Bank for amount up to \$1,000,000 which would include “working funds” for necessary building projects
 - Allison made a motion to bring to congregational vote; Melissa second. Motion carries.
 - Council will decide on a date for the meeting, likely in August, based on the bank information

Adjournment: Melissa made a motion to adjourn. Rebecca seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm