

**Peace United Church of Christ
Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday 9/24/2023**

Call to Order - 11:32am - Dawn Stevens - (Members Present - 53)

Opening Prayer - Pastor Paul Bauch

Approval of 9/24/2023 Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda - Unanimous.

Approval of 7/23/2023 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes - Unanimous.

Approval of 1/22/2023 Annual Meeting Minutes - Unanimous.

Election of 2024-2026 Council Members - Motion Linda B. 2nd Dale E. - Unanimous.

- **Katie Lenz**
- **Brian Osowski**
- **Teresa Waldof**
- **Carrie Wieland**

Retiring Council Members (Term ending 1/2024)

- **Stacy Beyer-Groth**
- **Tom DeYoung**
- **John Kuth**
- **Brian Winters**

Returning Council Members

2022-2024

- **Dave Paul**
- **Dean Pollock**
- **Jen Sadler**
- **Dawn Stevens**

2023-2025

- **Quintin Dykes**
- **Tonia Ely**
- **John Haug**
- **Missy Kloempken**

Approval of Minnesota Conference Delegates - Motion Adele B. 2nd Linda F. - Unanimous

- **Laurie DeYoung**
- **Dave & Lori Paul**
- **Dawn Stevens**
- **Teresa Waldof**

2023 Financial Budget Review Highlights - Tom DeYoung

- Thanks to all - gifts are in excess of \$225,000.00.
- Non-pledged \$ (non-member giving) is up - indicates potential for new members.
- Pledging member giving is below budget - indicating deficit.
- Other income - insurance claim settlement funds, interest on insurance settlement funds while held in savings during wait period/payment to various sources, and RPU rebates on energy efficient lighting upgrades.
- 4 months remain to respond to pledge shortages.

2024 Proposed/Preliminary Budget Plan - Tom DeYoung

- Budgeted pledges remain at \$390,000.00. Non-pledges - \$15,000.00
- 2024 budgeted income includes: Listos rent increase (fall '24), pledged giving increases.
- 2024 budgeted expenses include: utilities increases (14%), new position - Director of Programing/Music, staff wage increases, worship/education expenses.
- Goal - mortgage funds in mortgage account so balance can be taken off P&L statement.
- No questions presented - please contact Tom D. for forthcoming questions.

Stewardship Plan - Quintin Dykes

- Campaign kicks off in a few weeks - excitement around new building/new programs.
- Encouraged to think about these 4 areas: Pathways, Political Action, Administrative, Vitality.
- How can we merge these growing areas and align them to the budget.
- Feedback will create awareness of stewardship funds - where they are being invested/to what extent are they required.

Building Reconstruction Updates - Paul Bauch, Debby Adams

- Building Recon is nearly complete including downstairs - Dwelling, game room.
- New indoor and outdoor signage including ADA accessibility for bathrooms/classrooms.
- Still searching for appropriate bell tables.
- Much delayed insurance check has arrived to conclude reimbursement - contractors, etc.

Technology/Security Update - Kirby Bakken, John Kuth

- Security cameras update - previously had 5, now 13 motion-activated cameras total in/outside of building - with more being considered to enhance areas in basement halls etc.
- Entrances feature technology for monitoring who is entering/exiting the building. Doorbells will allow access per on site contact. Doors will be locked during off time hours.
- Kitchen door replacement in the plans - will be integrated with security system.
- Looking for tech team help to assist with powerpoint operation and joy stick controls for online service. Individuals will be trained for successful transition to assisting on Sundays.

Listos Update - John Haug

- Listos is fully back on site.
- Per fund raising activities - Butterfly Fest successfully occurred in August with Peace support.
- Volunteer opportunities can be found at Peace website and listoskids.org

Visitation/Companion Ministry - Dave Paul

- Pastor Paul will arrange referrals. Tom D and Dave P are co-leads.
- Home Companion Outreach - visits to members at home or at care facilities.
- Peace volunteers will receive training and visit participating visit receivers once a week, once every 2 weeks, or whatever agreed upon arrangement.
- Orientation is 11/12/2023 after Sunday service - location tbd.

Ministry & Vision Team - Paul B, Brian Winters

- Brian - Visioning Team asked "What will get this church to the next level?" - "What were some options?" Decision was made to bring in John Pavlovitz to establish parameters for the visioning process.
- 11/16/23-11/19/23 John P will be visiting and engaging with various teams and congregation.
- Theme is Hospitality and aspects covered in John's book, **A Bigger Table**.
- Vision Team will continue its efforts over the next 9 months.
- Vision Team has outlined 4 areas: Connections, Pathways, Social Action, and Worship.

Ministry Teams

Connections - Brian Winters

- (formerly Membership/Vitality) - 3 areas of focus:
 1. Wednesday Meals - reaching out/marketing to broader community serving others & supporting Clare. Taking on food insecurity needs via future partnerships with other churches? Food distribution - maybe a food truck?
 2. Home Visitation - reaching out to those in need of a social connection with Peace.
 3. Membership/New Members - including: expanding our greeters program, exterior & interior branding messages (signage & and intentional efforts to make Peace feel welcoming - creating physical & virtual ways to find out about Peace. Brian "We are looking for people to show up".

Pathways - Dylan

- Pathways is up and running successfully - great volunteer teachers/kids who show up weekly.
- Pathways instills a "United Message" that youth and adults can go home with each week as teaching/learning occurs and discussion around same message continues.
- Currently wrapping up theme - "What Are We Made Of?" Next - "A Bigger Table".
- More volunteer teachers would be helpful.
- Dylan will begin full time duties in January which will include planning events for all (including greater community) with no religious agenda - simply to bring people together. There will be a catalogue of activities that will be available in time for the 2024 calendar year.
- Music Update: every Sunday the Rainbow Choir meets - Peace Community offers a safe space for this choir to gather and sing (LGBTQ+ without traditional choir attire - black gowns/tuxedos). Upcoming media coverage on this group so extra support from Peace will be appreciated. Also, Christmas Eve choir in the works. Special music coming up once a month. Hoping for bell tables so bell choir can resume.

Social Action - Linda Bradley

- Grateful for many new members.
- This group's mission focuses on feeding & housing those who are less fortunate.
- Working with: Family Promise, Project Legacy, Channel One, Jefferson School, etc
- Looking for new areas of need.
- Working with John Pavlovitz to assist in new approaches that can support the community.

Worship - Missy Kloempken

- There is a great need for assistance/leadership with this group for creative input.
- Will be meeting on 10/11/23 at 6pm for input including song suggestions, images that fit the theme (What Are We Made Of, A Bigger Table).

Questions/Conversation - Paul Bauch

- Forthcoming will be the formation of the Creative Arts Team. It will assist with branding & marketing out in the community - virtually & physically. Working to integrate themes/messages of Peace and to synchronize them into all aspects of our ministries.
- Linda B asked, "What is Peace United?". Paul B responded that it is a branding effort coming out in January 2024. More to come.

Upcoming Events

- Trick or Trunk
- Confirmation Sundays
- John Pavlovitz

Closing Prayer - Pastor Paul Bauch

Adjournment - 12:28pm

Respectfully submitted by Dave Paul