

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 27, 2025
APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Reverend Dr. Scott Paeth, Barbara Simonson – Chair, Jim Bittman -- Treasurer, Hailey Bianco via zoom, Laura Bittman, D.G., Kerry Hamill – Secretary, Jeanann Power, Judy Sachs, Ranjan Singh, Nicole Toft.

Absent: none

Others present: Richard Neuhaus

Quorum established, meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Scott.

Approval of Agenda

Nicole moved to approve, Judy seconded, agenda approved.

Approval of Draft Minutes

Judy moved, Jeanann seconded, April 22, 2025 Draft minutes approved as corrected.

Edgebrook Youth Together Report by Hailey Bianco out of order. EYT has wrapped up for the school year, so they will not be meeting regularly, but will be having activities. Slip and Slide kickball is scheduled for June 22. Pride service is June 29. July 5, EYT will be at the North Branch Farmer's Market to get their name out to the neighborhood. Vacation Bible Study is scheduled. The trip to St. Louis is July 13-18. EYT staff meeting is next week, and they need to schedule a board meeting. ECC has paid our dues to EYT.

Old Business

Music Director – Alan's retirement: June 15th will be Alan's last service, and we will host a reception following the service with food catered from Colletti's, cake and prosecco. There will be an announcement regarding Friends of Music name change and a banner out front. Judy motioned and Laura seconded making a \$2,500.00 gift to the Opalgala Scholarship Fund in his honor. Barb also had a copy of the centennial hymn he wrote framed for him.

Search: An interview is scheduled with someone who can play organ but is more of a vocalist than an organist. Edgebrook Lutheran had someone that may be interested. There has been discussion of getting the congregation more involved participating in the choir, but that would involve more rehearsals. Kirstin will handle music for the summer.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds (report attached): D.G. highlighted items from his report. Coffee pots have been deep cleaned. He is obtaining proposals for the parking lot and walkways, which are

prone to flooding. He is looking into pollinator friendly landscaping and obtaining bike racks. Cindy and her husband have been handling the cleaning duties. The previous cleaners, Knight & Day, would like to be considered along with other companies to resume cleaning services. D.G. is arranging to have the tile in the sanctuary stripped and re-polished.

Congregational Life (report attached): Laura reported that 18 people attended the Chicago Dogs outing and we may try to attend another game this summer. She also may plan another trivia night. Laura is still looking for performers for the lawn concerts.

Education and Mission (report attached): Nicole discussed our plans to help the Moto-Rivera family as they have decided to return to Venezuela. There is a Go-Fund-Me set up to support them. A decision was made to contribute \$750 from the mission budget to the fund. Laura moved and Jeanann seconded a motion to transfer \$750.00 via zelle to Liz or Kelly, who set up the fund. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. A Sunday School activity is needed for the fall. Consideration will be given to hiring a babysitter.

Finance (Current financials attached): The financial report was reviewed and discussed with Judy pointing out highlights. We are on target budget-wise for the most part. There have been a lot of expenditures for repairs. We may want to separate maintenance and repairs in future budgets. Our checking account is plentiful. There was a discussion of complications involved with rotating officers and updating signatories.

Nominating Committee: Judy reported no new updates. We will be looking for a Treasurer and Member at Large.

Theatre: No report.

Pastor's Updates: We are adding two new members, Grayson and Joanna. Scott will officiate at their wedding in the fall at Botanic Gardens. There will be a memorial/funeral service at the church on June 13th for someone who used to attend the church. Scott discussed various conferences and committees on which he serves. There was discussion of using pastor's discretionary funds for Scott to attend a conference on Peace and Justice in Switzerland, which was determined to be acceptable.

New Business: Gift for Alan's retirement was discussed under Old Business

Next Council Meeting – June 24, 2025.

Judy moved to adjourn, Laura seconded. Unanimous vote, meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry Hamill, Recording Secretary