

Community of Grace Church Council September 18, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Mike Hamernick, Darrin Vick, Angie Way, Andy Hennig, Carol Carlson, Dennis Engman, Mike Mathisen, Carl Albing, Tim Meier, Stephanie Battista, Wendy Fitzsimmons, Craig Pearson, and Sam Hunter

Excused: Joe Ehrman,

Meeting called to order at 7:01

Andy shared a devotion from Psalm 46.

Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes of the August Council meeting were reviewed and approved.

Pastor Darrin's Report

- Departure of Jeanne Filkins and plan for future staffing in Communications.
- Had an excellent staff retreat at the YMCA Camp St Croix on September 16. We prayed, played, and planned. I will have more to share regarding out work on a congregational dashboard for use in measuring our progress in achieving ministry and missional goals.
- Starting in October, Holy Communion will be offered on the 3rd Sunday in the contemporary service.
- Pastor Darrin is convening a task force of three council members, Carl Albing, Sam Hunter, and Joe Erhman, to begin a conversation with St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Stacy regarding potential shared ministry opportunities.
- We won a Clergy Renewal Grant from the Lily Foundation. Pastor Darrin will be working on a plan to communicate both his sabbatical and the grant award to the congregation.

Pastor Angie's Report

- Serve Here forms were phenomenally impactful.
- We had another Generis meeting, and talking about giving moments in worship.
- We were having conversations about our 140th Anniversary in 2028, and how we might celebrate.
- Because of our practicing the way journey, will not have a Christmas program, but there will be more dramatic moments.
- There is a lot of enthusiasm for what the resurrection means, Eastertide, celebrations after Easter.

Children's Ministry – Wendy Fitzsimmons

- Kickoff Sunday, 41 kids in Sunday School.
- Family fun night September 25th
- Ministry team has worked had on the spiritual and development goals for students of all ages.

Students – Tim Meier

- No report

Service and Missions – Joe Ehrman

- We saw MANY responses to the "serve here!" form after Angie's sermon and have added a lot of new volunteers to our various ministry areas!

- Project home has officially moved into their new facility and it was truly a joy to help them accomplish it! The new shelving and TV mounts will be incredible for the families, and our church family made that happen!
- We donated all the school supplies the students at project home will need for the school year including backpacks!
- As we wrapped up the school tools drive, a total of 340 backpacks were donated to families in the WBL school district
- Invitations have been given to all of the families at LADC and CGCS to invite them to our food packing event on October 25- pray with us that we see a lot of them join us in this grace together opportunity!

Seniors – Carol Carlson

- September Juliet went to Sax, in October, Kathy Schnieder will be hosting Juliet.
- Romeo is still meeting at Perkins.

Worship – Sam Hunter

- No report

Groups – Carl Albing

- The leader guide got out for the last two training weeks.

Adults/Welcome – Craig Pearson

- The welcome team gained 20 new volunteers
- Multiple new families at the orange wall
- Page Numbers are on the screens during worship and contemporary ushers are passing out bibles.
- Community of Grace together merchandise will be on the website by Sept 25.
- Craig is working on drafting a new Council Member Orientation packet.

Treasurer's Report – Dennis Engen and Mike Mathisen

- Reviewed August General Operating fund actuals and balances, including Missions funding.
- Reviewed August Endowment fund balances.
- Reviewed August Reserve fund balances.
- Mike moved that we accept the Clergy Renewal Grant and that these monies be placed into a designated equity account to be used for the planned or approved expenses as designated by the grant application or any changes that are approved by the formal grant guidelines or the grantor. This motion was moved and seconded, and approved by the Council.

Facilities – Mike Mathisen

- We are upgrading backup servers.
- Look at the Grace Kids Wall.
- Blue Awning, and more concrete work happening at the main school entrance.

Secretary – Stephanie Battista

- No report

Vice President – Andy Hennig

- No report

President – Mike Hamernick

- The pancake kickoff was a great success.
- October offering: Mike 9 am contemporary; Carol 9am traditional; Tim 10:30am
- The October meeting will be October 23rd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Battista