

Peace Leadership Council meeting minutes
July 17, 2018 6:00 PM

Present: John Voight, Tom Czelusta, Elizabeth Stevens, ElizaBeth McCay, Jon Williams, Doug Price, Pastor Lauren Miller, Shannon Hofer, Sue Mueller. Absent: Crystal Pariseau, Jennie Carter, Chris Engel, Vicar Melissa Woeppel.

We gathered in the sanctuary for devotion by John Voight on the Grace that God gives us, even though we are “cracked pots”, and reminded us to extend that Grace to others.

Shared highs and lows

Welcomed guests: Claudia Stites, Bob McAdams, Angela and Clark Yarbrough, Russ Strait, Larry Craig, David Pedrick

Old Business:

1. June minutes were reviewed, edited, and unanimously approved as amended.

New Business:

1. Pastor's report

- ❖ VBS Art camp went very well. We had 64 kids in attendance, several from outside Peace. There was lots of creativity, great discussions, sharing of God's love and Word, and examples of how the kids grew through what they learned about God. An added gift to our community was that a group of moms, who are not members of Peace, told Pastor Lauren how they appreciated the time during VBS to get together for fellowship while their kids were in VBS, something they had sorely missed and needed. Members of Peace gave generously of their time (there were about 40 adult volunteers), and donated many items for use during the week.
- ❖ Continuing with this Art Camp theme, our monthly Create Peace intergenerational faith formation program will begin on September 8, 4-6pm. The first session will be focused on Colossians 2, being woven together in love. Create Peace will be held the second Sunday of each month throughout the school year. There will be a meal, learning/story, project and sharing. It is geared towards families, but all ages are encouraged to attend.
- ❖ Pastor Lauren has been trying to put together a leadership team for small groups, but no one she has asked has agreed as of yet. Possible small groups being discussed by congregants are: home repair helpers, meal ministry, bowling, and book studies. Katy's group will continue on Sunday nights and Tuesday mornings. Pastor Lauren and Vicar Melissa will lead a Wednesday noon group. Small group revitalization is a priority that council identified as a way to further faith and fellowship within the community.

- ❖ Gearing up for fall kick off August 26 with the theme of God's Work-Our hands. Worship service will be at 10am, then service projects will be available at church and in the community. There will then be a pool party at the Hollymead Pool later in the afternoon/evening to celebrate the day.
- ❖ Meeting with John Wertz, director of Evangelical Mission of the VA synod, on Friday to discuss ministry opportunities for growth of the Lutheran church into northern Albemarle to Greene County. Smaller congregations north of Albemarle are not thriving, and they will discuss how we can be involved in a renewed ministry in the northern corridor. The new bishop of the VA Synod is also setting up meetings within conferences in synod to discuss the life of the Church. Our conference's meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 12, 3pm, in Stafford, VA. Local leaders expressed that this may not be a good date for people to attend from our area. Council members are encouraged to attend. Doug Price is attending and driving; others should RSVP. Members of the congregation will be invited to attend.
- ❖ Vicar Melissa ended her internship year last week, and she is on a well-deserved vacation this week. She will be returning to start as pastoral associate next week. Some of her duties will be overseeing children's time and participating in confirmation classes and adult education. Although she is no longer an intern, we will continue to call her "Vicar" due to lack of a better moniker.

2. Financial update

- ❖ Chris is unexpectedly absent tonight, and financial numbers were not current. John will contact Chris and ask him to send current financials by email and to update the congregation on finances via the SOP/e-zine.
- ❖ Tom noted that we were 9K short of our anticipated income for the month, but there were a lot of donations for the Honduras team prior to their recent mission trip.
- ❖ Problem with safe: on Monday, Carla noted safe was open and checks were inside from Sunday. Clark Yarbrough fixed the safe, but we have been having other problems with the safe door. Clark will call about getting a replacement and refund/exchange because the safe is less than one year old. Shannon noted that we need to get the checks in the safe counted ASAP. He will call counters and find someone to come in.
- ❖ Carla is still using the older accounting system ACS; we are working on updating to the Realm system, which should not require additional costs and hopefully save us money.

3. Town hall follow-up

- ❖ In February, council decided to alter worship times as part of larger visioning discussions on enhancing worship experience, growing the church, furthering faith,

and creating a welcoming and accessible experience for unchurched people in our community. The idea was presented to the congregation in May at the Congregational Meeting. Unfortunately, several congregants were upset and felt that the entire congregation should have been included in the discussion of this change, as expressed again tonight by some of our meeting guests. The council expressed regret that feelings were hurt and that, if we could go back we would have made our decision-making more widely known, having a Town Hall meeting before the announcement rather than after. The Town Hall Meeting in June was well attended, and several ideas were brought up, one being that of a “blended service.” This and other ideas were discussed and will continue to be discussed. Concern about the time change is still reverberating in the congregation, but as we continue to explain the reasoning, many people have voiced support, although concern still exists about logistics, especially about the praise band and sound system. We continue to work on this. Guests voiced their opinions and encouraged increasing communication about our vision/mission, increasing family connection within the community, and sensitivity to all members. Council members also expressed opinions, and we agreed that we will review the idea of which types of decisions should be discussed with the congregation and which are decisions to be made by council; this is not always an easy thing. After much discussion of feedback over the past weeks, council is still in agreement that the worship time change will be beneficial to our overall plan. Pastor Lauren encouraged Grace among members and moving forward together as a community focused on the Gospel.

The meeting closed in prayer by David Pedrick.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 14, 6pm.

Devotion schedule: August – Jennie Carter
September – Tom Czelusta
October – Chris Engel
November – Shannon Hofer
December – ElizaBeth McCay
January – Pastor Lauren Miller
February – Sue Mueller
March – Crystal Pariseau
April – Doug Price
May – Elizabeth Stevens
June - Jon Williams