

Minutes from July 26, 2021 COS CC Meeting

The in-person meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Council President Rick Burnett

Rick immediately turned the meeting over to Eric Jakubowski for the opening devotional. Eric has spent a considerable amount of time with the youth/middle school of Christ Our Shepherd and focused his devotional around his experience chaperoning this group of young adults at the recent summer camp and the growing that he experienced while observing, listening, being open minded and never being surprised by unexpected observations and conversations with the children of God.

Following the devotional Eric turned to meeting over to Paster Fritz for his monthly report. Paster Weise focused his report on seven (7) areas:

1. A thank you to all the staff, lay leaders and the greater congregation for their partnership in Jesus' ministry at COS
2. Jesus using Church Camps to build faith which tied in nicely with the devotional that Eric had just shared
3. Keep spreading the word that we as a congregation are striving to get back to a sense of normalcy in the things that we do even in the face of the rising COVID Delta variance.
4. COS making an impact outside our walls in the highlighted areas of a) summer lunch program, b) Tornado relieve projects for the folks in Newnan, c) allowing Pastor Fritz to take some time away from COS to serve as Pastor at Camp Luther, d) serving as a Dean in our Synod
5. Pleased with what he has heard and seen as it relates to sanctuary improvement project(s)
6. Personnel Update and that we are still looking to fill two staff positions a) Audio Engineer and b) Assistant director of Contemporary Worship
7. Update on our relationship with St. Marks Lutheran Church and Pastor Marty Ringer

Pastor Weise then handed off to Pastor Miriam who provided her report in the form of a pictorial PowerPoint that highlighted through pictures all that she and we were involved with during the month, from youth events, family milestones such as weddings, social service and outreach events and the likes.

Rick then made a motion to approved the minutes from the June Council Meeting as submitted by Brad Harris, motion was seconded by Eric and then approved by Council.

The meeting was then turned over to Mark Bunker to report on the last month of the Fiscal Year (June). The financial report is included as an attachment to these minutes. The bottom line is we had an outstanding month of income which allowed us to close out the fiscal year in a much better position than we had been forecasting.

The meeting was then turned over to Scott Bosecker to report on three (3) things that he has been running point on for the Council:

1. USDA Program for Farming Operations – This has to do with our Palmetto property which at some point in time in the past had registered the land as potential farm/cattle operations for

which we were given a farming-id number as registered with the US Department of Agriculture. We received notice from the USDA that we needed to renew this id or that it would lapse. Scott was told by a representative from the USDA that if we currently had no plans to farm the land that we could let this lapse and then reapply for an ID in the future if the decision was ever made to farm the land.

2. ACS Financial Analyst – This topic is a carryover from last year’s Council when discussions took place regarding working with our Head of Finance (Bill Volckmann) to use financial data contained and maintained in our ACS database to help with our financial forecasting and planning, i.e., specifically looking at things such as 5-year trends in giving, as well as whether this information could help the Pastors identify congregational members and families that might be in need of pastoral care. The best that can be said from this conversation tonight is that we as a Council will continue to look at this and opportunities that might exist but for now Bill Volckmann will remain the only person with deep-dive visibility into this information in ACS.
3. Organizing all our documents – We have had situations recently where important documents could not immediately be found. This was also pointed out as a “weakness” in our recent Audit Report. Eric pointed out the work that he and Richard King and the technology team have been working hard with staff to provide a new structure for storing our automated documents but that there are still reams of paper documents that are housed in many different nooks and crannies spread throughout our building. Working with the Office Administrator, Lisa Manthey and Scott Bosecker agreed to start the laborious process of going through all our paper documents and to put a better understood organization to these documents. Rick said that he would help as well.

Rick then shared two testimonials, one from Melissa Jacobson and one from Barb Anderson regarding how new restrooms at Palmetto could enhance their respective ministries as it relates to the things that they could do at Palmetto that currently are impossible to do with the current port-o-potty situation.

Building on what Pastor Fritz discussed during his monthly report at the beginning of the meeting the group spent a little more time talking about the things we could do both individually and as a group to get people coming back to in-person worship. Among other things, we discussed bringing back a communion process that once again had attendees coming forward to the altar to receive the bread and wine if as individuals, they were comfortable doing that. It was decided that we would implement the upcoming Sunday a process where we would not be handing out the host and then following intinction (dipping into wine or grape juice) but would hand out the self-contained bread and wine with a pastor’s blessing and then taking that to your seat. We also decided to republish office hours (Tues-Thursday 10am-4pm) emphasizing to all that we are back in business as usual. Furniture was also moved back into the narthex, hallways opened back up, etc.

Finally, Scott gave an update that the bi-monthly Communication team meeting with our webmaster (Reach Right and Magen Hyatt) was coming up next Thursday and that there would be more to report on next month.

As is our custom the meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer and adjourned at 8:25pm.