

# Council meeting 10/27/25

101 Peachtree Parkway, Peachtree City, GA  
call to order 6:31

Attendance: Bill Grabill, Pastor Fritz, Pastor Wes, Ellen Pfundt, Hope Catlett, Davida Kilgore, Brenda Adams, George Axford and David Turk.

Absent: Ben McCumber, Mike Earwood, Jason Hausner, Mark Bunker

## Devotional

Bill gave his devotion based on a verse from the book of Amos: "...Let Justice roll down like ever flowing stream....". At COS we focus on the "main thing": Christian community that gathers together for worship and community service. This is the "main thing": God's people living out Jesus' messages. Bill then went on discussing ways we do this at COS and asked is there more to do? Bill then left the council with some thoughtful questions to be answered unto themselves. Bill concluded the devotion with prayer.

## Youth report

Hope Catlett:

The youth group has been working on a workbook that contains questions. She mentioned there was a neat study using the analogy of s'mores with the Holy Trinity. She mentioned the youth turn out for Oktoberfest was great and fundraising went well with the sales of baked goods. Hope remarked they are currently working on ideas on how to serve the community, ways to serve and possible missions.

## President's Opening comments

Bill Grabill:

There are lots of positives on how things are going. Office operations are going well thanks to Kendra, Rebecca, Shelly, Steve and Richard. There have been some hiccups along the way which are to be expected. One is that the temporary worker's comp was cancelled. It's back in force now but there was a temporary gap.

Mark Bunker is passing the Treasurer's baton to someone new. Will stay on thru January meeting. A new treasurer will be elected then. Gary and Bill met with Fayette County planning representatives regarding zoning and permissions for Palmetto Road property.

Property and employee insurance has risen roughly 73% over the past five years. We also need to research Preschool insurance as well as the legalities and responsibilities. Pastor Wes and Ellen will discuss/research the ins and outs of this relationship with the Preschool.

## **Pastor's report**

Pastor Fritz:

Oktoberfest was a great success. Many other successes with Logos and Loft, Reformation Sunday, Fellowship sons and dads all well attended.

Luther ridge staff also has some good success stories as well as some hard realities. Bishop Strickland shared some statistics: average congregation attendance is 50% or less. Out of roughly 8,300 congregations, 1,200 don't have a pastor. Seminary is tough with 2 years attendance on campus, two years away and then comeback for another 2 years on campus. We are looking at new ways to reach new prospects for pastorship. There are also stories of healthy congregations stumbling a bit. We have an introductory letter of a new series Growing Seeds of Hope. The Key Ministry series initiatives: growing hope, ministry of hope, hospitable spaces, equipping leaders. We went over giving units: share joy of generosity, weakness vs vulnerability. Pastor Fritz shared several slides regarding the percentages of families giving and the total giving at COS. The good news is that God gives us what we need.

November 9 there will be an Apple Tree Society meeting. Pastor Anna Lugo will be our guest pastor as well as host for the meeting. Discussions ensued regarding numbers of prospects and projections of giving and invitations.

Pastor Wes:

Things are going well. Youth attendance numbers have been good. There has also been more engagement on Sundays. We have some opportunities coming up for more active participation. Sunday school is going well even though the numbers may be a little low. Advent family night is coming up. Everyone is really looking forward to it. We are still rolling some ideas around for activities. Kaylee and Pastor Wes are also trying to come up with ideas for some murals in the Sunday School room hallways. A new seniors group is meeting on November 19 from 12noon to 1:30 and will be using a book called "How the Bible Actually Works". The group will be eating and discussing this book. Ages for this group are 55 and up. A young adult survey being conducted.. There is a request to get Pastor Wes to send a list of books to be read for Wednesday Bible Study.

## **Financial report**

George:

Our income has been amazingly strong. Expenses are under control. Personnel expenses are higher since all positions are now filled. This has not been the case for quite a while. All of our expenses have been covered. Overall, it's been a great month with great giving. Our numbers may be down a bit for in person giving but online giving keeps getting stronger.

## **Personnel**

Pastor Fritz and Bill:

Executive session at 7:38.

resumed:7:49

There were some general discussions regarding employee benefit packages. A review is to be done on employee benefits which will be completed by an outside source.

### **FMT101 Peachtree Parkway**

Bill:

Bill shared the minutes from FMT's meeting. Bill also mentioned that this team is operating like a well oiled machine. A CER for the new sound board was put upon the table: Wes motioned, Davida second.

Motion passed for a new sound board.

Bill mentions that this leaves us with roughly 20K of sanctuary renewal funds. This will be for speakers, handrails, etc. for possible upgrades to the sanctuary renewal.

### **FMT Palmetto Rd:**

Mike/Bill:

This report is based off of an email from Eric. Eric was sent a draft volunteer job description for his review. Eric says that the mowing will slow down with the cooler weather. There are still lots of tree and shrub trimming grounds work to do. This type of work is best completed in the cooler weather. There is a fire pit renovation going on as well as considering building insulation and several other projects. We have 2 graduation parties booked for property. Palmetto Road Property is already bearing good fruit.

### **Administrative items:**

1. Child protection policy-Pastor Wes.

Ellen had questions regarding background checks...employee vs volunteers. Pastor Wes mentioned that Sex offender search is free but there is a \$15 fee for each felony search. We should consider a more comprehensive approach to background checks. Admin reserve funds are funding background checks for now. There were discussions on safe gatherings. There was a motion to approve the Child Protection Policy via Ellen and seconded by Davida.

Motion approving the updated Child Protection Policy passed. This policy will be sent to Kendra.

2. Internet security policy: David

David will plan to get more involved in research and will involve an outside source. David just finished up a security check on the Chick-fil-A system so he has experience and expertise in

this field. Discussions ensued regarding some of our biggest threats and concerns: phishing with AI.

### 3.Audit committee: George

The committee still has to wrap up a couple of things. They plan to present the audit in November. Questions will be resolved by December if necessary.

### 4.Thank you notes: Brenda

Chris Gritti nominee for thank you cards. Several other names were mentioned and discussions of others that have put in so much for the church. Since Brenda was absent it was noted to please send ideas to Brenda via email.

### 5.Next council meeting is scheduled for November 24.

### 6.December council mtg discussions: It was decided that the council will meet on December 15.

### 7.Importance dates: Jan 25 annual meeting, Jan 31 council retreat, May 17 Budget Approval Meeting.

Seeing that there were no other committee updates or congregational feedback, Council closed with the Lord's prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.