

Meeting minutes taken by Jill Barry

Members Present: Cal Meuzelaar, Marjo Jordan, Laura Kremer (via Zoom), Co Walter, Sally Todd, Rev. Jonathan Bratt Carle

Member Absent: Mary Trasky (sick)

Non-voting Present: Jill Barry (recording secretary), Laura Daniels, Deacon Kim Hoop

Meeting called to order 6:01 PM, Rev. Jonathan offered the opening prayer

Agenda approved as written (Marjo moved / Cal 2nd/Passed)

Prior Minutes for April approved as written (Marjo moved/Cal 2nd/Passed)

Liaison & Clergy Reports – all reports accepted. (Marjo moved/Sally 2nd/Passed):

Clergy Report (written) for April accepted

- Jonathan requested that we move Advent back to more generally accepted 4-week Advent Season. Very little discussion – consensus was that the issue is a Worship & Music decision, but Jonathan wanted official leadership buy-in/approval; Jonathan made motion for a 4-week Advent, Co 2nd, passed.
- Upcoming vacations include June 8-14 to attend/preach at friend's wedding, July 13-19 & August 14-20 family vacations. Supply has been arranged for all.
- Enjoyed going to Synod Assembly

Deacon Kim's April report (written) accepted.

- Still working on the Eucharistic Visitor program, getting close to scheduling class (waiting for Jonathan to determine schedule.)

Property (written report from Sally)

- Landscape Task Group meeting again May 28th.
- 3 new food safe hoses installed in Community Garden (one purchased, 2 donated) so hoses available for all areas without having to drag across other plots.
- Quotes on new fencing very expensive – looking into cheaper alternatives to deter deer. See "New Business"
- Request from Excel Charter Academy for permission to use our parking lot as overflow for school events. See "New Business"
- Roof/Solar Task Group received 2 proposals, will review and submit recommendation to Leadership at the June meeting.
- Quote for installing Air Conditioner in pastor's office obtained from Seamans – proposal has been forwarded to Dave Feutz (Co's son-in-law) to see if there are cheaper alternatives (perhaps small add-on unit).
- Spring Clean-up had a good turnout.

Community Ministry (written report from Laura K)

- On May 9, Laura K. attended an all-afternoon Zoom seminar on Reconciling Works/Reconciling in Christ organization's Building an Inclusive Church training program (Ascension is a RIC member.) It is a training that congregations can undertake to more fully support the LGBTQIA+ community. A group from Leadership which includes Rev. Jonathan, Laura K., Lauren M., Mary M., and Marjo J. will be meeting to discuss the possibility of implementing this program at Two Churches. Will get back to Leadership with a recommendation.

Hospitality (verbal report from Laura D.)

- Discussed perhaps having a picnic again (likely a joint Two Churches/Holy Trinity event) again in the fall.

Worship & Music – (verbal report from Rev. Jonathan)

- Planning to have a RIC/Pride worship service June 21st
 - Perhaps a banner/sign of welcome to be placed on the lawn – Jonathan will order it
- Trying a gluten-free communion bread recipe from Synod Assembly so that everyone could partake of the bread. Jonathan will talk to Bruce, who is currently our primary baker.

Correspondence

- None.

Treasurer's Report

- Attended a diocesan Zoom meeting regarding yearly audits.
 - Audit process has changed
 - Diocesan authorized auditor required, who will be paid to attend the audit.
- Still showing a loss at month end (April) and year-to-date, but current cash position is healthy. Expect bottom line to be positive by end of May.

Old Business:

- DHS/ICE Protocols
 - To be updated in June.
 - Sally & Jonathan talking with Peaceful Observers – more info to come.
- Bobbie T.'s offer to continue exploring TC hosting AA groups
 - Consensus after Leadership Retreat is that this is not in our wheelhouse and we will not be pursuing this further at this time.
 - Cal will talk to Bobbie to let her know.
- Dismantling Racism
 - To be addressed this fall, possibly in conjunction with a larger training event.

New Business:

- Building & Grounds
 - Are we committed to Community Garden long-term (before we invest in a fence)?
 - We will try a do-it-yourself method using fishing line to extend the fence higher as a deer deterrent.
 - Will need to get buy-in from the Bhutanese community who is using the garden – they will need to provide some “sweat equity” for this project, and others going forward.
 - Three possible uses for grants: Roof/Solar, Community Garden fence, Air conditioning
 - Decision made to apply for grant for Air conditioning is our best use of possibly grant funds.
 - Only one estimate received so far for air conditioning, will need to seek 2 more estimates.
 - Parking Lot Use Policy (use by outside organizations)
 - Currently making decisions on a case-by-case basis
 - Jonathan and Sally will work on a policy and email it out to everyone.

- Finance
 - Air conditioning (see Building & Ground above)
 - Re-allocation of Apportionment Funds
 - Due to corrections made by the Diocese to both 2025 & 2026 apportionments, which are lower than originally thought, our 2026 apportionment for Two Churches (both Holy Cross to the Diocese and Ascension to the Synod) will be \$2200 less than budgeted.
 - Monthly payments going forward for 2026 (taking into account overpayments previously made) will drop from \$692 to \$535.
- Moving Forward from Leadership Team Retreat
 - Create Strategy for Implementing 3, 6, and 12-month goals.
 - Cal & Jonathan worked together to present notes from the Leadership Retreat
 - Some ideas/tasks were presented and categorized as 3-, 6-, and 12-month goals
 - Leadership Team members volunteered to spearhead certain groups/tasks/ideas:
 - 3 Month Goals (by August?)
 - John – train ushers to better welcome and help visitors; “train” congregation to sit toward the wall leaving space for visitors.
 - Marjo – discern which members are already working as “ambassadors” when new visitors arrive
 - Co & Laura K. – create welcome bag for visitors
 - Sally & Jonathan – finish work on creating space for children in library/nursery
 - Jill, Laura K. (& Kathy T. most likely) – help teach new and/or difficult music
 - Cal, John, & Terrence – have livestream on TV in Ascension Hall for families
 - 6 Month Goals (by November?)
 - Jonathan – investigate getting official church emails for staff/lay leaders
 - Kim & Sally – create home-based groups to deepen our fellowship & welcome new members
 - Jill, Cal, & Jonathan – work on a more didactic worship bulletin (St. John’s Episcopal in Grand Haven listed as good example)
 - 12 Month Goals (by Summer 2027)
 - Jill, Jonathan, (+ will seek out other members such as Andrew & Hannah, Robin G.) refresh & update website
 - Ideas Identified but not assigned:
 - 6 Month
 - Develop an “outing ministry”
 - Offer additional worship times beyond Sunday mornings (e.g. midweek Eucharist, livestream Morning Prayer)
 - 12 Month
 - Update Mission Statement
 - Change name of each congregation to the same thing (“Two Churches” isn’t the name of either congregation) – requires legal investigation

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026 , at 6 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.