

St. Peter's United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
July 13, 2025

Present

Kendall Covington, Holli Forlines, Tom Gilman, Gretchen Nelson, Dani Stockwell, Leon Stockwell, Chuck Sullivan, Greg Vig, Phyllis Wiggins, Anna Williams, Mike Williams

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Leon welcomed everyone and offered our opening prayer.

Financial Update

Mike offered highlights from the 3 financial reports that he generated. We're below budget mainly due to not incurring the usual expenses for the Youth mission trip and retreat. There are no significant changes in the account balances. Mike reminded us that he transferred money from budget checking to budget savings to earn more interest. Mike noted that he added two line items for tracking revenue: sales (parsonage furniture donations) and services (Men's Group being compensated for working at the Strawberry Faire). This change will simplify reconciling with Realm. Mike is anticipating a sizeable expense for new cameras and software as Butch is exploring updating our current equipment. Kendall offered for Josh to assist with this upgrade. Mike also said that historically some parsonage expenses were being paid from the general budget, but moving forward he would be charging all parsonage related expenses to the parsonage account. He reported that Pristine Services, the cleaning service at the church, is increasing their fees by 9%. He said this was the first increase in 4 years. He also stated that parsonage and technology have a shared bank account. He proposes to transfer the technology funds out of the parsonage and technology bank account into the budget bank account. A motion was put forth for his recommendation and the motion passed. Mike handled the licensing and registering of the Boy Scout trailers into the church's name. Tom will add them to our insurance on Monday. He said they would cost \$115 each annually. There was some discussion regarding how the insurance would be paid but it was decided that the church will cover the premium expense.

Trustees Update

Tom shared that one of the HVAC systems was making a noise. Mr. Waddy diagnosed and repaired a blower motor that was going bad. There was also water discovered on the lower level in the youth room by the window. Butch discovered a gutter issue. Greg said the Men's Group may install a French drain that would daylight out and added that there were other gutters that may need attention. Kendall offered for her company to evaluate the water runoff/erosion issues and that there may be state grants available to subsidize any interventions to redirect the water.

Assistant Treasurer Update

Holli reported that the Preschool account balance is \$35,165. She also said that Linda's credit card limit needed to be increased because the water testing for the preschool cost \$900 and her limit is \$500.

Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts Update

Chuck said the Cub Scouts participated in the Beaverdam Fourth of July parade. The Troop just returned from summer camp at T. Brady Saunders. Troop 706 is 40 years old and is considering having a celebration. They also want to celebrate Harold Stills who is struggling and back in rehab. Chuck also shared that a former Scout, Taylor Seay, died recently in a dirt bike accident. He was only 21 years old. Dani thanked the Scouts for helping with the Strawberry Faire.

Missions Update

Kendall shared that plans are underway for the Esther Gilman Memorial Clothes Closet. They have advertised the event and need for donations. She said that they would like to recruit a few more folks to serve on the Missions Committee. They are also considering a mission piggybacking off the Men's Group fall BBQ Chicken fundraiser. Likely not this year, but next year.

SPR Update

Greg reported that Amanda would like to adjust her office hours to Thursday and Friday. Currently, she works Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Since Yun took Mondays off, there was someone in the office each morning. Gretchen is planning to take Fridays off. This shift in Amanda's hours will continue to have someone in the church office each day. She suggested that she work in office Thursday and Friday and remotely on Mondays or as needed. Greg, Gretchen and Amanda will discuss and give the new schedule a trial.

Pastor's Update

Gretchen is acclimating to all things St. Peter's. She requested to be included in all correspondence so that she can be in the loop for all church events and activities. She inquired about planning in the fall for the coming year and if we ever had planning retreats. She encouraged us to consider it to aid in living our mission and ministry.

New Business

Leon brought up the Trespass Notice that has been discussed. We've had to consider this notice due to a community member that has relentlessly and repeatedly asked for financial support from our church (and other nearby churches). Local authorities have said they can't do anything without this notice. There was a great deal of discussion on how to handle this situation. A subcommittee, consisting of Leon, Gretchen, Greg, and Linda, will do some research and report back with a recommendation.

Additionally, Leon brought up the St. Peter's Facilities Usage Guide. We discussed the scheduling of church events versus nonchurch groups using the building. Church functions and activities have first dibs and Amanda maintains the calendar of events. The Scouts and AA have standing dates for usage. There has historically been issues with church and nonchurch groups using the building and not locking doors, turning off all lights, putting things away, leaving items in the kitchen, not flushing toilets, etc. It was agreed that we should reissue the facilities usage guide annually and encourage the recipients to share the information and responsibility to care for our church with all who use it. The \$200 fee for non-church groups to use the church was also brought up. All agreed the fee was too low. Gretchen is going to check with other churches to see what they charge, but she suggested it should at least be \$500. Mike and Gretchen will report back with a recommendation.

Brian Davis is working on a Youth representative replacement for council.

Closing Prayer/Adjournment

Gretchen offered our closing prayer.

Upcoming meeting dates: September 14 (Phyllis), November 9 (Brian)

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Williams