

Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday July 31st, 2023

Members present: Mark Musser, Ed Kuznick, Nancy Biddle, Jim Small, Vivian Fueyo, Rick Markko, Bob Herb, Lorraine Danna, Sally Scaman, Donna DeSpain, Brad Miller, Bob Goecker, Vanessa McCambridge, Sally Cash,

Members absent: Art Forenza, Mary Northington, Debbie Mills

Standing, Non-Voting Member: Rev. Dr. Guillermo Marquez-Sterling

1. Words of welcome to the new Council from Council President Mark Musser.

We welcome this year of work together on behalf of Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church with a commitment to communication, collaboration, and transparency.

2. Pastor Guillermo opened with a word of prayer.

He also asserted that the Executive Committee is a subset of the Church Council, which is the governing body of the Church. The Exec. Committee will strive to be open in its communication to the Council, unless its business pertains to legal or personnel matters. Regardless of the content, all matters discussed in the Council meetings are confidential. Communication, trust and confidentiality are critically important at this time, and always. Council members were elected to serve the Church.

3. Introduction of Council members

All members present were asked to introduce themselves, state their role on the Council and their goals for the coming year of our work together.

4. Establish regular monthly Council meetings.

The Council will meet the 3rd Monday of the month from 7:00-8:00 PM, excepting December. Another meeting date will be scheduled in December.

5. Report to the Council on the activities of the Executive Committee, and an update from the meeting just prior to the Council meeting.

The Executive Council met from 6:00-7:00 on 7/31/23, prior to the Council meeting. They discussed a budget update, which will be presented to the whole council at the September meeting. They also discussed confidential personnel matters. Mark clarified for the Council that the separation agreement between PAGBCC and Rev. Dr. Keith Keith Haemmelmann stipulates and restricts communication of any kind about Keith's separation. This was deemed in the best interests of both Keith and the Church. The Council is being advised legally by John Joseph. Council members were asked not to have any contact with Keith and/or Jeanne about church matters. If anyone has any questions, Mark invited them to contact him. The "no contact decision" was deemed by the attorney and the UCC to be in the best interests of the church moving forward.

6. Council mini-retreat in September

The Council members were surveyed regarding their availability for a mini-retreat in September, either September 16th or September 23th. Pastor

Guillermo will select the date when at least 2/3 of the members are available. If neither date works, he will suggest another one.

7. Schedule of worship duties and services leading up to Advent

Pastor Guillermo shared a calendar of worship duties through November. See the attachment.

Other Items:

Pastor Guillermo asked for feedback on the decision to have only one service during the month of July.

October 7 will be volunteer appreciation day.

He also asked about whether or not to begin passing the collection plate to increase contributions on Sundays. Donna commented that it required 6-8 ushers to pass the plates in the sanctuary. Having sufficient ushers was often difficult. Other ideas were discussed.

****Action Item:** The Worship Life Committee (Lorraine Danna and Mary Worthington) was charged with investigating the options and reporting back to the Council.

8. Report from Search Committee on progress of Interim Sr. Pastor search

Bob Herb reported that on June 13 the Search Committee sent out to the UCC the Church Profile for Interim Pastor Candidates. On Saturday, July 29, the search committee interviewed one of the applicants by zoom. The Search Committee unanimously agreed on an Interim Senior Pastor to call . Mark Musser and Bob will be negotiating a compensation package with this candidate next week. It is stipulated by the UCC that the Interim Pastor is ineligible to apply for the position of Senior Pastor. The Interim Pastor's role at PAGBCC will be to guide the church as it heals in preparation for welcoming the new Senior Pastor when he or she is called.

9. Brief report on church finances from Rick.

Quick financial update: Giving for June 2023 was approximately \$48,100. Past revenues for June have averaged approximately \$45,000. Giving for July 2023 was approximately \$27,700. Past revenues for July have averaged approximately \$40,000. We also discussed providing a short, Overall offerings are approximately 50% lower than what we have been blessed to enjoy in past years.

10. Closing comments from Pastor Guillermo and Mark about goals, tasks, "work of the Council" as we begin the new church year

We look forward to working in cooperation and harmony as we work together this year. Council members were elected to serve the Church. Task Force participation of members beyond their elected positions will further serve the Church. Pastor Guillermo asserted his goal of involving more people in leadership in each of the Church's ministries. Sharing the work will improve the work.

The meeting was adjourned.

****Action Item:** the next Council meeting is August 21 from 7:00-8:00.

ENC: Calendar of Worship duties through the beginning of Advent