

FINAL

Epiphany Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting May 13, 2025

Attendance: Pastor Brad Gee, Ray Holmes, William Lytle, Dell Moller, Jeff McCullough, Ashley Turner

Excused: Josh Thornton, Dianne Mawhirter, Cindy Ganem, Lynn Rigelman, Mike Poyer

Guest: Ian Boden

Call to Order: Ray called the meeting to order.

Prayer/Devotion: Pastor Brad opened the meeting with a prayer and Jeff shared a devotion on the greatest commandment to love which is to give ourselves to others in all situations, good and bad.

Council Minutes/Approval: The April 8, 2025 Minutes were previously posted on the shared drive for review. There being no corrections or changes, Council dispensed with the reading of these Minutes. After motion by Will Lytle and second by Ashley Turner, motion unanimously carried to approve these Minutes.

Treasurer's Report/Approval for April 2025: This Report was not available for review by Council.

Pastor's Time:

- He has been appointed to serve a 2-year term on the board of directors of LOVEboldly, a Christian organization that advocates for the LGBTQIA+ community.
- He will be gone this coming Sunday to preside at a wedding in Michigan. Pastor Mark Diemer will be here to preach and preside at both services.
- Eli Wood will be baptized on June 1.
- He and Ian will be attending the Southern Ohio Synod Assembly on June 6-7.
- Reminder there is only one service at 9a on June 8 with a reception following to celebrate the end of Ian's internship with us.
- Continues to attend the monthly Clergy Cluster.
- Memorial service for Pastor Roy Godfrey, Epiphany's founding pastor, on June 29 at 3p. He served here from 1961-65. Pastor Roy's ashes will be interred in our memorial garden columbarium.

Committee Reports:

Congregational Events: New mission statement is *"The committee plans and organizes welcoming social events filled with the love of God for the congregation and the community."* Second annual summer event on Aug. 16 will not have food trucks but Will plans to prepare and sell food with help from volunteers. Ian Boden's internship celebration is on June 8; Will and volunteers will prepare food for that event. Final Pause was a potluck and well attended. Pause Committee is actively recruiting

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new members as some of the current members have moved onto other ministries at Epiphany; so thankful for all the amazing volunteer support since 2011! Stacia Thornton is having difficulty securing food trucks for the Backyard Party on July 3 so Will and volunteers will work to prepare and sell food that night.

Finance: Nothing reported.

Preschool Board: Because of the potential cost increase from tariffs, the down payment was placed for the playground now. The bulletin board is set up in the Gathering Space for the congregation to review and hopefully help with the purchase of the fence components. The plan is to go with professional installation of the fence. Bushes in that area will be removed (volunteers needed for this job). Preschool graduation is on May 15th.

Property: Nothing to report.

Social Services: Nothing reported.

Welcome & Outreach: Are preparing welcome bags for VBS. Planning continues for the July 3rd Backyard Party; have leftover kids crafts from last year and are still considering whether to have food trucks. Other activities coming up are the Pride Parade in June, Pickerington's 4th of July parade, and 1st Sunday name tags.

Children, Youth & Family: Little Lights and FUSION will wrap up their year at the Pause picnic tomorrow. Eight 8th grade students were confirmed on May 4th. May 18th is the final Rise & Shine for the school year and the Inflatable Kickball Farewell for Ian. Senior High is prepping for the Summer Mission Tour which starts in June (6 missions are being planned). Also in June is recognition of the teaching team, graduate recognition Sunday and brunch, and VBS.

Ali was accepted into the second Age to Age Cohort, a grant funded program designed to equip congregations with tools and support to strengthen faith formation across the generations; the Cohort starts in late summer and lasts for about a year.

Other/New Business:

- Carpet - Quad and Nursery. Will be starting on May 19th.
- Parking Lot. Starting first with drainage portion repair on May 19th, weather permitting.
- Conference room expansion. Discussion to look into expanding the current conference room by tearing down the wall between it and the next door classroom, adding a movable wall divider, lighting adjustment and carpet replacement. This would allow for an "adult classroom" so the Youth Room can be solely used for the youth. Motion made by Will Lytle with a second by Ashley Turner to ask Property Chair to obtain quotes for the purpose of expanding the current conference room; motion unanimously carried.

Strategic Planning:

- Space: This committee made up of Dianne, Ray, Lynn, Ali Adams, Jeff Mitchell, and Elaine Schroeder, met on April 22 to discuss ways to develop an adult Sunday School class area so as not to have to use the youth lounge. They also briefly discussed storage issues.

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- Communication. Will and Dell will work on a design proposal of the communication wall in the Gathering Space to replace the current bulletin boards.
- Building. Council met on May 1 with Cheryl Rickets who led the previous strategic and building expansion committees back in 2018-2019. She went over the previous building committee's planning. Council will talk more in-depth on this matter at its June meeting.

Next Meetings:

- Tuesday, June 10th, at 7:00p. Mike will have the devotion.

Adjournment: Ray led Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Ganem

Cindy Ganem, Secretary