

All are welcome in this church community. You are welcome here if you have ever felt excluded or judged because of your gender, ethnicity, race, religion, status, ability, sexual orientation, doubts, or questions. We are a community committed to racial equity, and we believe in Jesus' commandments to love God and love neighbor.

July 22, 2024

2024 Council

President: John White (Y)
Treasurer: Millie Fosberg (Y)

Vice President: Janice Burwash (Y)
Secretary: Pam Dix (Y)

At-Large Members:

David Svaren (Y) (On Council through 2024)	Nancy Hill Hoffman (Y) (On Council through 2024)
Mary Nolte (Y) (On Council through 2025)	Heidi Yeoman (A) (On Council through 2025)
Kathleen Hasselblad (Y) (On Council through 2026)	Vacancy for Erin R. (Through 2026)
Pastor Charis Weathers (Y) (On-going member)	

Present (Y) Absent (A)

The meeting was called to Order at 6:31 pm by John with a quorum present.

Opening Prayer was given by Pastor Charis.

Leadership Reports:

1. **Council Minutes:** The June 19, 2024, meeting minutes prepared by Pam Dix were approved as amended with a MSV (move, second, vote)
2. **Pastor's Report Highlights:** Pastor Charis shared that the remembrance of Bob Olsen during worship on June 23 went very well. It was her first time incorporating a memorial into worship, and the family quite appreciated it. Thanks to the **new portable sound system** that Sean had purchased using Grace Grant funds for church use, the family could share meaningful stories and be heard.

On July 4th BLC was in the **Sedro Woolley Loggerodeo parade**. Central United Methodist led the way, and BLC, along with Wild Church, St. James Episcopal, PFLAG, and others, joined in. There were at least 10 BLC members that participated with Xavi riding his one-wheel with a flag, making quite the impression. Our BLC entry received third place in the Community division.

The collaborative **all-Skagit ELCA VBS** is next week! It will be the same format as last year, 5-8 pm, starting with dinner. Host church is Fir Conway Lutheran. I will be working with Pastor Kristi for the "move" portions of the curriculum.

We've had two bids for the **PSE Solar Grant**, one from Banner Power (they are next to our parking lot!) and Eco Tech in Bellingham. I'm grateful to John and David for being present for contractor visits. The grant is due in about three weeks, so it's crunch time to get everything done. Carrie, who put together our initial data for this grant, is eager to write this grant for us, and is being assisted in her efforts through the grant program itself.

I'm still waiting to hear on the **Letter of Intent (LOI) to the National Fund for Sacred Spaces** for their grant program (submitted Feb. 29, 2024).

August 16- 18 is **BLC Camping at Bay View State Park**. It was MSV to have Sunday morning worship at the State Park beach area, with worship beginning at 10:00

am with no worship at church unless it is raining. Participants need to bring their own chairs.

3. **May & June Treasurer Reports:** Millie stated that May was stable, over on giving, under on our spending. In June we received a couple of large checks, so over on our giving again, under on our spending. A stewardship letter on giving will be going out the end of the month, along with an E-news message. There were funds spent from our Restricted Funds (Grace Grant-Upper Skagit). There was a discussion of our Restricted Funds process and the procedure in place to spend the funds allocated. The treasurer reports were approved (MSV) for May and June.

Regular Action Items:

Consideration of a **Cost of Living Pay Adjustment for Jacob:** After discussion, the council approved a 3 percent salary increase for our Office Administrator, Jacob, prospectively.

Discussion Items:

Review of the five categories of Focus Areas for BLC and Pastor Charis were discussed: Our values of being engaging, inclusive, reforming & relational. The Council listened to all Charis has contributed in these areas and gave her feedback. Areas that the Council can actively support her and the church's values were identified.

Development of Safe Space Policy: John will research this with the ELCA policies already in place and report back next month.

2025 Council Member recruitment, nominations, volunteers: John will give a pulpit talk next Sunday, July 28. Information will also be published in the E-news.

Puget Sound Energy solar grant: To finish the grant proposal, Banner Power Solutions needs \$300 that will be put toward the cost of installation. It was MSV to pay the \$300.

Our Annual Meeting is set for September 22, after church.

Standing Reports:

Emergency shelter status: John submitted an online request to Security Systems Northwest in Bellingham for a quote for a fire alarm system.

Building & Grounds: David installed the old conference room TV in the Library. It was discussed and approved (MSV) to purchase a larger television in the conference room, spending up to \$1000 for the TV and mounting equipment from the Building & Grounds annual budget.

Announcements: Next meeting will be on August 21 at 6:30. Mary gave the closing prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dix, Secretary