

Lamplighter

Randall Presbyterian Church ~ Randall, MN

November 2022

Message from Michael

At the October session meeting, I made a recommendation that beginning in January of 2023 my call be changed to a two-thirds time. This decision did not come easy. Literally, months of prayer, discussions, and spreadsheets lead to this conclusion.

The current plan is that I normally will work Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and of course Sundays. However, there will be flexibility, as I will be available if needed for funerals or special meetings and activities.

There were a number of reasons that went into this decision, two in particular.

Church Finances

When I was called to Randall Presbyterian Church, it became apparent to me that the church could just barely afford a full-time ordained pastor. However, after two years without having a regular pastor I was confident that the church would grow and stabilize. For the first year and a half, we were moving strongly in that direction.

Then came the epidemic. There is no need for me to go into the details of those couple of years. However, like many churches, our average

attendance is down, and the church has been relying on savings. This cannot continue.

The reduction in the total pastor's compensation will enable the church to live within a balanced budget.

I am not ready to retire, but.....

When I accepted the call, I anticipated that I would be your pastor for four to five years then consider retirement. I am not ready to retire, but I am looking forward to having more free time.

Personally, Christi and I may have to make some changes financially, but I should be eligible for partial Social Security benefits by my birthday in August.

It may also mean that I might be asking others to participate a little more. But, that may be a good thing, as a reminder that we are all called to work together to serve Christ here in Randall.

Michael

Gifts for Developing Countries November 20, 2022



During worship, our youth will select items from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to help people in need, based on what we've donated toward this mission. You can mail it, drop it by the church or add it to the fishbowl in the entryway.

Curious as to what sort of items the Giving Catalog has? Here are a just a few things:

- Cow, pigs, chickens and goats
- Garden well
- Community garden
- Sewing machine
- Refugee food basket
- School supplies and Teacher training
- Farming tools
- Fishing boat

And more!

Our gift will provide hope and relief to people, families and communities in need, and we can rest assured the money will be prayerfully utilized.

Curious to learn more? Just visit the site at: <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/gifts/>

Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 20th Following Worship

There will be a short congregational meeting following worship for the purpose of approving the 2023 Terms of Call for Rev. Hartwell.

Everyone is invited to stay and decorate the church for Christmas following the meeting.

Perkins Bible Study Thursday Mornings at 9:30 a.m. Join Us As We Re-discover the Psalms!

Bring your Bible and join us at the Little Falls Perkins for a late breakfast, early lunch, just coffee, or come just for the study and fellowship. The study is lead by Nancy Skoog.

November Birthdays

Alicia Brott	Nov 11
Ashley Farrow	Nov 20
Kari Magee	Nov 21
Michelle Pietz	Nov 22
Brianna Yorek	Nov 24
Patricia Ballou	Nov 25
Tina Pearson	Nov 30

*“May God Bless Each of You &
May You Have a Happy Birthday”*

Who Me? An Officer? Are You Being Called?

*Whoever wishes to become great
among you must be your servant,
and whoever wishes to be first
among you must be slave of all.
For the Son of Man came not to be
served, but to serve, and to give
his life a ransom for many*
Mark 10:43-45

The Nominating Committee of Randall Presbyterian Church is beginning its work to call officers to serve beginning in January, 2023. As they pray for God's discernment, they ask you to pray, and ask yourself, "Are you being called?"

Retreat Opportunities for Youth~

Clearwater Forest Snow Camp January 13th-15th

“Oh, precious is the flow, that makes me pure as snow”...CAMP! Save the date for snow camp 2023 happening January 13th-15th—you won't want to miss it! Registration will be opening soon, and we can't wait to see you ALL this winter!



Save the Dates

February 10-12, 2023

Minnesota Valleys
Youth Retreat
Current 6th-12th Graders

First Presbyterian Church
Willmar, MN

Details to come soon!!

Contact:
Kali Luther
MVP Youth Coordinator
kali@minnesotavalleys.org
(320)-905-0599

Advent at Randall Dates to Remember

Sunday, November 20, Following Worship
Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas!

November 27, The First Sunday of Advent
Christmas is for Everyone: Prophet

Beginning Wednesday, November 30
Advent Zoom Bible Study,
Every Wednesday of Lent, 6:30 p.m.

December 4, The Second Sunday of Advent
Christmas is for Everyone: Priest

December 4, 4:00—8:00 p.m.
Hartwell Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.
Movie Night

December 11, The Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas is for Everyone: Shepherd

Saturday, December 17, 5:00 p.m.
Caroling Caravan

December 18, The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas is for Everyone: King
Children's Christmas Program

Saturday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Day Service and Brunch

New Advent Candle Wreath

Randall Presbyterian Church has a new Advent Candle Wreath that will be used this year. The wreath was purchased with funds from the memorial funds and a gift from Dan and Sharon Thilquist.



RANDALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINUTES OF SESSION – October 5, 2022

Members present: Terry Coffin, Jake Farrow, Christi Hartwell, Chris Magee, Marlys Olson and Moderator Reverend Michael Hartwell. **Members excused:** Sue Fenske. **Members absent:** None. **Others present:** None.

The regular meeting of the Session was called to order at 6:34 p.m. in the basement of Randall Presbyterian Church by Moderator Reverend Michael Hartwell, who opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was declared as is shown by those in attendance. A quick check in was also done to see how everyone was doing and if there were any prayer concern updates.

Approval of Minutes: The August 17, 2022 Session Meeting minutes were previously sent out by email to session for their review. Session approved the minutes as written; the minutes were included in the September Lamplighter newsletter. Session did not meet in September.

Approval of Treasurer's Report:

Summary of the September 2022 Balance Sheet – Current Total Assets: \$128,408.49 (Checking: - \$1,166.81, Savings: \$127,241.68).

	<u>September</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$5,305.85	\$64,385.02
Expense:	\$6,881.33	\$76,840.49
Net Income:	\$-1,575.48	\$-12,455.47

- ❖ Session discussed the Church's CD's, the current financial status of the church and made a decision to transfer one of the CD's coming to maturity to savings or checking. Motion to receive the Treasurer reports as discussed with a correction to Pastor Michael's salary in August, which should reflect \$4,516.66 not \$2,258.33 on the September Profit & Loss report, was made by Christi Hartwell, seconded by Chris Magee. Motion carried.
- ❖ Session also discussed a budget draft for 2023. The discussion included whether to keep ServantKeeper at an annual cost of \$600.00 or cancel the subscription and look for alternative replacement options. A motion was made by Christi Hartwell, seconded by Jake Farrow to cancel the subscription and look for replacement options for the church directory/membership information. Motion carried.
- ❖ Pastor Michael submitted a Pastor's Compensation proposal for 2023 which the session discussed at length. This proposal reflects the change from full-time to two-thirds time for Pastor Michael in 2023 which could be an approximate annual savings to the church of \$30,000.00. Motion to approve the move in Pastor's call to two-thirds status was made by Jake Farrow, seconded by Christi Hartwell. Motion carried. Motion was made by Marlys Olson, seconded by Chris Magee to have a Congregational meeting following worship on November 20, 2022 to present this change in call to the congregation. Motion carried.

Reports:

- **Pastor's Report:** Perkins Bible Study, Thursday, August 18; Presbytery Zoom Book Study, August 18; Pastor Cohort Zoom Meeting, Monday, August 22; Perkins Bible Study, Thursday, August 25; Food Shelf, August 25; Pastor Cohort Zoom Meeting, Monday, August 29. Presbytery Inventive Ministries Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, August 30; Randall Flood Task Force, August 30; Perkins Bible Study, Thursday, September 1; Pastor Cohort Zoom Meeting, Monday, September 5; Presbytery Commission on Leadership, Wilmar, Thursday, September 8; Pastor Cohort Zoom Meeting, Monday, September 12; Randall Area Business Group, Tuesday, September 13; Perkins Bible Study,

Thursday, September 15, Presbytery Pastor's Retreat, September 18-22; Randall Area Flood Recovery, Thursday, September 22; Pastor Cohort Zoom Meeting, Monday, September 26; Board of Pensions Retirement Seminar, September 28-29; Pastor Cohort Zoom Meeting, Monday, October 3; Presbytery Inventive Ministries Zoom Meeting, Tuesday, October 4.

Vacation: October 24-27 (Tentative)

The Academy: October 28-30 (we will have a pre-recorded sermon from the Presbytery's EP)

- **Church Rolls and Register Report:** Nothing to report.
- **Worship/Membership/Mission Report:** Currently the average weekly attendance is 39. As of September 4, worship is now indoors and being live-streamed.

34 were served Communion on September 4, 2022

37 were served Communion on October 2, 2022

70 members; no change.

Missions: Weekly – Meals on Wheels; Monthly – Morrison County Food Shelf

Fall mission: Presbyterian Giving – donations to this mission will be collected on November 20th during worship.

- **Fellowship:** Morrison County Food Shelf; the last Thursday of the month has three members from church volunteering.
- **Christian Education Report:** Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Study starting on October 2, 2022. Adult Bible study will be at 9:00 a.m. in the library and Sunday School will be downstairs following the Children's Time. There will be no Sunday School on the first Sunday of the month so that the children can participate in communion with the congregation. We had 50+ attend our first Family Vacation Bible School, with almost 30 children in attendance.
- **Building/Maintenance Report:** New gutters have been installed on the church, thanks to several members of our church. Some of those doing the installation were Jim Skoog, Gerard Waldoch, Al Lashinski, Dan Thilquist and a friend of Dan's.
- **Presbytery:** On Saturday, October 8th, First Presbyterian Church of St. Cloud will be hosting an in-person Presbytery meeting. The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pastor Michael Hartwell and Terry Coffin will be attending the meeting.
- **Correspondence:** A letter of thanks was received from Minnesota Valleys Presbytery Executive Presbyter Beth Buckwalter-Miller for her visit to our church.
- **Deacon's Report:** nothing to report.

- Motion to approve the committee reports as received was made by Chris Magee, seconded by Marlys Olson. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- a. Morrison County Food Shelf – October 27, 2022 will be our next night for volunteering. We need three to four volunteers to help. Everyone is invited to volunteer at the Food Shelf. The hours to work are 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please contact Pastor Michael or Terry Coffin if you are interested. We need volunteers!!
- b. Session discussed what to do with the previously used Sunday school room along with the contents still remaining in there after clean-up. A decision was made to turn it into a storage room once it is cleaned out.
- c. A new Advent candle wreath is needed to replace the old one. The Worship committee will assist Sharon T. in the search.

New Business:

- a. A "To Do List" has been started for electrical and plumbing repairs that are needed to be done as priority. This list will be updated as needed. Some of the items on the list can be done by volunteers in our congregation.
- b. It is time for the furnace service check. Chris Magee will contact Ballou's Plumbing and Heating to schedule the service call along with having them replace the faucets in the Women's bathroom downstairs.
- c. We received a renewal notice from Church Mutual on the property insurance that is due November 1, 2022. The new premium is \$5,625.75. Session has asked that we consider changing the renewal date to the first of the year for budgeting purposes. Terry Coffin has reached out to the representative regarding this change.
- d. Nominating Committee will begin their search for 2023. Two elders and two deacons have first terms ending and one deacon's second term will be ending. Please consider becoming an elder or deacon.
- e. Christmas schedule:
 - We will continue the caroling tradition on Saturday, December 17th starting at 5:00 p.m. Sharon Ballou has volunteered to provide refreshments again this year for the carolers afterwards. It is a great experience so please join us in the fun!
 - Christmas Eve (Saturday) service will be at 5:00 p.m.
 - Christmas Day we will have a simplified service at 10:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday school or Adult Bible Study.
 - Children's Christmas program is normally on the fourth Sunday of Advent which is December 18th. More details to follow.
 - The Hartwell's Open House will be on Sunday, December 4th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All are invited!
- f. A decision was made to move the piano down onto the floor in front of the organ where it has been in the past. This will allow more room for the Presbyterians to sit in the chancel area.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jake Farrow, seconded by Marlys Olson. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. followed by prayers for the people and the Lord's Prayer led by Reverend Michael Hartwell.

Next Meeting date and time: November 16, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Respectfully submitted by,



Terry L. Coffin

Clerk of Session