

Atonement Council Minutes — 06/26/2025 at 7:00pm

2024-2025 Council Attendees (10/10)

Matt Badding	Lyn Bowers	Angie Brickson
Dave James	Curtis Klaassen	Greg Moffitt
Jeremy Otto	Neil Pfeiffer	Dave Stelzer
Laura Trentadue		

2025-2026 New Council Members (3/3)

Genevieve Brown	Cathy Dykman-Acinger	Tim McCandless
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Other Attendees

Pastor Zac Sturm, Toni Pearson, Nathan Choate, Traci Johnson (zoom)

OPENING

Opening Devotions/Prayer: Pastor Zac

Introductions

- We welcomed our three new Council Members: Genevieve Brown, Cathy Dykman-Acinger, and Tim McCandless.
- Each current and new council member took a few minutes to introduce themselves.

COUNCIL AGENDA

May Minutes

- **MOTION #1:** (Greg Moffit moves/Lyn Bowers seconds) Motion to approve the council meeting minutes from May 22, 2025, without corrections.
 - 9 voting members present: **9 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. Motion Carries**

Pastor Report: Pastor Zac

- Pastor Jordan is away with the Senior High School youth in North Carolina on the YouthWorks mission trip camp, with youth from both Atonement and Holy Cross Lutheran Church.
- Election was very close, 151 to 144, Rev. Donna Simon now bishop for Central States Synod.
- Really excited to work with Horizons Stewardship and the positive congregational vote.
- Going to take remaining one month of sabbatical during the month of July.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Daley

May 2025

- May ended with expenses \$16,000 better than the budgeted plan of a \$16,500 deficit (net of only a \$500 deficit).
- The Year-to-Date overall budget deficit for May ended at \$24,000, better from April's YTD deficit of \$40,000.
- Cash flow and Unrestricted Cash of \$133K remains concerning, as it includes advanced giving of \$148,000.
- The per-month \$1000 in reduction in Benevolence budget allocation and not transferring \$12,500 to Campus Sustainment went into effect May, which largely is what contributed to the better expenses in effort to help shore up the General Fund cash position.

Topline & Giving

- May deficit was \$500 which was \$16,000 **better** than budget.
- Giving was \$1,500 above budget
 - excludes dedicated giving to Campus Sustainment of \$4,000

Balance Sheet

- Cash balances are \$133,000 in unrestricted cash (prior month: \$102,000), and \$224,000 in restricted cash (prior month: \$296,000), total of \$357,000 (prior month: \$398,000). Unrestricted cash of \$133k remains concerning.
- Advanced giving balance is \$148,000 (prior month: \$117,000), Campus Sustainment is at \$132,000 (prior month: \$194,000).

Budget

- Expenses were \$1,500 better than budget with the following line-item variances noted:
 - Worse: Worship \$1,200 – *Worship YTD is \$10,000 over-budget, 44% worse than planned*
 - Better: Utilities \$1,500 – due to lower KCP&L and Phone expense
 - Better: KFAM \$1,000 – due to lower Sunday School costs
 - Better: Benevolence \$1,000 – reduced per Council directive 4/24/25
- Year-to-date Campus Sustainment: \$46,500 + \$50,000* (**\$12,500 transfer stopped 4/24/25*)
- Year-to-date giving is \$39,000 worse (prior month: \$41,000 worse) than budget.
- Year-to-date deficit actual is \$105,000 (year-to-date deficit plan was \$81,000).
- Year-to-date variance is now **\$24,000 worse** than budget (prior month: \$40,000 worse).

STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations & Properties: Toni Pearson, Dave Stelzer, & Greg Moffit

- Campus Sustainment Fund balance as of May month-end was \$132,000.
- Work has completed with the Fire Alarm System, Gas lines, and Plumbing (water pressure reducing valve).
- Work on the sump pumps and building automation system are both in progress, with planned remaining balances owed approximating \$74,000.
- The water heater that supplies the kitchen, bathrooms, and coffee-preparation sink downstairs in Charter Hall has started to leak and is needing to be replaced. Two Options: (1) a special-order 80-gallon unit with 9 heating elements for approximately \$16K – or – (2) a standard 80-gallon unit with 6 elements for approximately \$14.9K. Recommendation is for the 6-element unit.
- **MOTION #2:** (Dave Stelzer moves/Greg Moffitt seconds) Motion to approve Toni Pearson, Director of Operations, to replace the Charter Hall water heater and plumbing, for the cost approximating \$15,000.
 - 9 voting members present: **9 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. Motion Carries**
 - to be paid from the budget/fund best determined by the Treasurer and Director of Financial Operations

Outreach: Lyn Bowers

- Visitor Welcome: Boo McCready is taking the lead, with all the staff also supporting her, carrying on the wonderful work of connecting with guests, visitors, and welcoming future new members that had been led previously by Ros Thorpe.

Kids & Youth: Jeremy Otto

- Summer is a slower time, a movie night is planned for July. Boo is planning and seeking ideas on how to not only create activities for kids involvement, but ways to support the parents as well, connecting with new member parents, having kid activity ideas right after church so parents can spend more time in the café, etc.

President's Report/Year in Review: Curtis Klaassen

Atonement Statistics:

- Giving when looking at households that contribute, compared to overall number of households:
 - \$ 3,400/yr average for all households; \$5,150/yr average for giving households
- Top seven household contributions range from \$22,676 up to \$41,262
- Toni: about 33 units (individuals & families) are non-member givers collectively give \$30,000.

Community Involvement + Support:

- Reviewed list of outside groups that use Atonement, not all groups contribute for building usage (can be considered community outreach or benevolence as opportunity costs)
- Kansas City Civic Orchestra – Atonement receives income from KCCO who pays for instrument storage all year, and pays around \$300 per concert.

Campus Sustainment:

- Reviewed items spent so far this year out of campus sustainment, remaining items we would like to repair this year, and the list of anticipated major expenses over \$20,000 for future.

Successes for the year:

- We retained both Pastors.
- We hired Toni Pearson as Director of Operations and started handling building repair items.
- We hired Penny Eaton as the Catering Advisor who has brought improvements to the Café and Atonement events.

Financial Outlook: Challenges and Opportunities:

- Partnership with Horizons Stewardship will provide opportunities to examine strategy, faith response requests to the congregation, and capital
- Future options to consider include finding a new uses for the 1960 building, potential of adding a daycare or preschool, continue to consider what it might mean to merge with large or/and small churches, are there ideas we can get from large churches (CORE, Lutheran Church of Hope), and can we use the expertise from Horizons.

2025-2026 Executive Council

- Going around the room, each council member expressed if they were individually being called to participate in any of the executive roles for president, vice-president, and secretary.
- **MOTION 3:** (Curtis Klaassen & Council moves moves/Lyn Bowers seconds) Motion to elect Cathy Dykman-Acinger as President, Matt Badding as Vice-President, and Neil Pfeiffer as Secretary for the executive committee roles for the 2025-2026 Council.
 - 11 voting members present: **11 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. Motion Carries**
- Thanks were expressed to Cathy, Matt, and Neil for their willingness to serve Atonement and the Council, the council is excited and ready to support them for this coming year.

Exiting 2022-2025 Council Members

- Pastor Zac and the Council recognized Curtis Klaassen and Dave James for their service to Atonement as Council members, as well as the leadership they provided at the various executive committee roles during their time on Council.

CLOSING

Closing Prayer: Pastor Zac

Adjourn – 8:50pm

Recorded by: Neil Pfeiffer

Submitted for council review: 07/22/2025

Approved with corrections: 07/24/2025