

Atonement Council Minutes for July 24, 2025 at 7:00pm

Council Attendees (11/11)

Matt Badding	Lyn Bowers	Angie Brickson
Genevieve Brown (zoom)	Cathy Dykman-Acinger	Tim McCandless
Greg Moffitt (zoom)	Jeremy Otto	Neil Pfeiffer
Dave Stelzer	Laura Trentadue (zoom)	

Other Attendees

Pastor Jordan Stone, Toni Pearson, Mike Daley, Traci Johnson (zoom), Pat Bjuland (zoom)

OPENING

Opening Devotions – Cathy Dykman-Acinger

Friendly Fellowship – Matt Badding

- Everyone was invited to share their favorite summertime activity to do as an individual and/or family.

President's Direction – Cathy Dykman-Acinger

- Both very excited and daunted. Excited for new ideas, fresh direction, and participating even deeper in ministry, even though it is a daunting time to be church.
- Asking for patience with your President and patience for each other as well.
- Five Goals for us to focus on this next year:
 - **Be purpose driven** – being very intentional to connect to Atonement's Vision and Mission.
 - **Building community** – focus on relationships between council, staff, congregation, and community.
 - **Enabling the Saints** – enabling people to do ministry, both staff and lay members.
 - **Efficiency** – we'll focus on making progress and try not to belabor difficult topics.
 - **It's about Joy** – let's embody joy and try to be as joyful as possible.

Monthly Ministry Highlight

- Assignments for 2025-2026 Ministry Area Liaisons:
 - Properties & Operations: Dave Stelzer
 - Finance: Tim McCandless
 - Congregational Life (Small Groups): Neil Pfeiffer
 - Discipleship (Adult Ed+): Angie Brickson
 - Kids & Family (KFam): Jeremy Otto
 - Youth & Family (YFam): Laura Trentadue
 - Personnel Committee: Matt Badding
 - J.E.E.P.: (paused temporarily)
 - New Member Welcome: Cathy Dykman-Acinger
 - Worship & Music: Greg Moffitt
 - Outreach Team: Lyn Bowers
 - Café & Catering: Genevieve Brown
 - Communication & Broadcast: (as needed) Neil & Angie

REPORT ROUNDTABLE

June Minutes

- **MOTION #1:** (Dave Stelzer moves, Angie Brickson seconds) Motion to approve the council meeting minutes from June 26, 2025, with noted correction.
 - 10 voting members present: **10 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. Motion Carries**

Pastor's Report – Pastor Jordan

- Pastor Zac is enjoying his time off on Sabbatical for month of July.
- Progress continues with Horizons Stewardship – upcoming event dates are:
 - Strategic Planning workshop on Aug 16-17
 - Next Level Generosity Discovery presentation to Executive Committee Aug 21
 - Next Level Generosity introduction to congregation members on Aug 24
 - Next Level Generosity Team Orientation & Planning on Sept 20
- Atonement will be hosting the installation for Rev. Donna Simon as Bishop for the Central States Synod on September 28th at 5pm with a reception following at 6:30pm in Charter Hall
- ELCA church-wide bishop election is in two weeks, Bishop Eaton is finishing out her term also.

Ministry & Staff Reports

- We'll be taking time each Council meeting to read out loud anything included in each of the "Requested Support From Council" sections in the Staff Reports.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Daley

June 2025

- Received additional quarterly IRA giving of \$35,000.
- Cash flow and Unrestricted Cash of \$167K remains concerning, as it includes advanced giving of \$127,000.
- The per-month \$1000 in reduction in Benevolence budget allocation and not transferring \$12,500 to Campus Sustainment went into effect May, will continue until otherwise noted.

Topline & Giving

- June ended \$49,000 better than budget (a surplus of \$55,000).
- Giving was \$31,000 above budget
 - excludes dedicated giving to Campus Sustainment of \$6,000

Balance Sheet

- Cash balances are \$167,000 in unrestricted cash (prior month: \$133,000), and \$221,000 in restricted cash (prior month: \$224,000), total of \$388,000 (prior month: \$357,000). Unrestricted cash of \$167k remains concerning.
- Advanced giving balance is \$127,000 (prior month: \$148,000), Campus Sustainment is at \$101,000 (prior month: \$132,000).

Budget

- Expenses were \$5,000 better than budget with the following line-item variances noted:
 - Worse: Communications \$1,700 – due to timing
 - Better: Payroll \$2,000 – vacant positions and lower hourly expense
 - Better: Utilities \$1,000 – due to lower KCP&L expense
 - Better: Worship: \$3,000 – *Worship YTD is now \$7,000 over budget, 26% worse than planned*
 - Better: Youth \$1,000 – primarily due to lower Sunday School costs
 - Better: Benevolence \$1,000 – reduced per Council directive 4/24/25
- Year-to-date expenses are \$33,000 better (prior month: \$15,000 better) than budget.
- Year-to-date giving is \$8,000 worse (prior month: \$39,000 worse) than budget.
- Year-to-date deficit actual is –\$50,000 (year-to-date deficit plan was –\$75,000).
- Year-to-date budget variance is now \$25,000 better (prior month: \$24,000 worse).

Horizons Stewardship Report

- Coming up next: Pastor Zac is identifying congregation members for the Strategic Planning Workshop process. The workshop will be a Saturday and Sunday totaling about 11 hours.
- Toni has gotten early access to MortarStone, the stewardship giving report and forecasting tool, and is really impressed with her first look. We are currently using a free trial period ending soon, the subscription costs \$2,400 per year (\$200/month). Toni will work on also getting Mike Daley and Tim McCandless early access.

Horizons Stewardship Report (continued)

- **MOTION 2:** (Dave Stelzer moves, Jeremy Otto seconds) Motion to approve Toni Pearson, Director of Operations, to purchase a subscription to MortarStone, using dollars from the dedicated funds given towards the Horizons Stewardship commitment cost.
 - 10 voting members present: **10 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. Motion Carries**

Operations & Properties Report – Toni Pearson & Dave Stelzer

- Campus Sustainment Fund balance as of June month-end was \$101,000. Just paid water heater, current balance is \$85,000.
- Final payment to SEi was made for the Fire Alarm System in May, Charter Hall water heater was replaced, paid in June.
- Building Automation System replacement was in progress, originally was scheduled to be replaced in 6 weeks. The global controller with our current outdated system died this week, so they have moved up working on replacing it with the new system to two weeks. The entire building has very limited air conditioning control in the meantime.
- Gas Stove in Charter Hall kitchen is no longer working. We can choose in the future to downsize it to a smaller commercial oven for about \$2,000. Should not affect café or kitchen usage – the Warming Oven works, and the new Convection Oven works well, and both are fully operational.

UP NEXT & OPEN DISCUSSION

Reconciling In Christ & Welcome – Neil Pfeiffer & Angie Brickson

- Completing proposal plan for and will be preparing to present at August Council.
- Working with Deacon David Behling from Reconciling Works to come to Atonement and make a presentation and be available for questions about Reconciling In Christ.

Council Retreat – Cathy Dykman-Acinger

- We will wait to plan our retreat for a time it best fits with the progress of the Horizons Stewardship strategy process and the development of the Next Level Generosity team.

CLOSING

Closing Prayer – Cathy Dykman-Acinger

Adjourn at 8:28pm

Recorded by: Neil Pfeiffer

Submitted for council review: 08/25/2025

Approved: 08/28/2025