

Messiah Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2017

Present: Alan Melrose, Charlie Radabaugh, Charlie Thomas, Christi Gillette, Jonathan Kniss, Joe Hamell, Anne Baunach, Cathy Hawkins, Alex Hawkins

Staff: Pastor Chuck Harris, Pastor Eric Wooldridge, Traci Vatne, Kelly Mullin

Excused: Lori Revely, Sheilia McLaughlin

Guests: Jamie Henderson, Ruthanne Henderson

Gathering Time

- **Call to Order & Introductions:** President Jonathan Kniss called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
- **Opening Devotion & Prayer:** Pastor Eric Wooldridge shared a devotion and led the group in prayer.
- **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to adopt the agenda with the following modifications:
 - Change of Approval of Minutes to Acceptance of Minutes
 - Elimination of Motion to Appoint Mission Portfolio 2.0 team
 - Wooldridge/Gillette. Passed
- **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to adopt the minutes with the following modifications:
 - Add Lori Revely to present
 - Fix word in 3rd bullet under Messiah's Response to Immigration Issues to read "Visibly support groups in our community who are targets of hate crimes and hate speech.
 - Fix spelling of the following names: Christi Gillette, Jonathan Kniss, and Kelly Mullin
 - Melrose/Radabaugh. Passed
- **Correspondence:** Jonathan shared that we received a letter from the synod thanking us for our benevolence contribution. The letter will be put in Messiah Weekly and the certificate hung in the Gathering Space.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **Messiah's response to immigration issues:** Jonathan reminded the group that Jamie & Ruthanne Henderson had attended the March meeting and shared a document asking the council to adopt five items dealing with immigration. Those items included:
 - Make the ELCA social statement concerning immigrants and refugees and recent statements by bishops and pastors public and understood by the congregation at large.
 - Create and publish specific, clear statements that leaders and other members can sign and adhere to standing with and walking alongside immigrants and refugees in our community.
 - Visibly support groups in our community who are targets of hate crimes and hate speech.
 - Inform the Messiah community about the reasons people in the Auburn area are coming as immigrants and refugees.
 - Join the ELCA, World Vision, World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Bread for the World, and Lutheran World Relief in declaring June 25 a National Refugee Sunday and participate in a meaningful and substantial way.

The council discussed the proposal. It was noted that Bishop Jaech has just sent out an updated letter on immigration. It has been posted in the Gathering Space and copies are on the Welcome Wagon. June 25th has already been designated as Volunteer Recognition Sunday and so that may not be the best day

for Messiah to do something. Ruthanne shared that the hope was that this would be an ongoing effort and not a one-time effort. The group discussed that part of the issue is finding someone or a group of people to lead this effort. The group discussed that Messiah Weekly and Messiah Mid-Week would be great places to share links to information of things that are happening to support immigrants. It was also noted that it would be great to have education opportunities around this topic. Jamie and Ruthanne expressed a willingness to help lead this effort but that they didn't want it to be their thing that they are leading on their own.

- **Partnership with the Auburn School District:** Pastor Chuck shared that he has met with Auburn School Superintendent Alan Spicciati and with Executive Director of Special Services Tami Petrina and that they are hoping that MLC would look at a partnership allowing them to house an ECEAP preschool in the MLC building. The district believes that the state will be releasing new funding to expand ECEAP and would like to do a partnership with Messiah serving children who are in the Washington Elementary School area. This is in very early stages. Tami would be willing to come to the May meeting to discuss this with the council. The council discussed this and came to consensus that they would like to keep the conversation going with the Auburn School District to see if a partnership was possible.

Implement Our Mission & Ministry

- **Volunteer Recognition Event:** Jonathan shared that June 25 has been designated as Volunteer Recognition Day at MLC. There will be a lunch and recognition event that day following the third service. Sheilia is preparing the community supper that day and so will help lead on preparing the food. The staff is preparing a skit. Jonathan is asking all council members to be in attendance and help serve food. We also hope to put together a council skit. During eight Sundays during the summer, different groups of volunteers will be recognized as well.
- **Date for Council Retreat:** Jonathan shared the desire to schedule a council retreat. Two dates are being looked at: August 19 or 26. Anne will send out a doodle poll to find out who has availability on each of the dates.
- **Endowment Fund Proposal:** The council discussed the proposal to recommend to the Endowment team that they fund the repair and enhancement of the sanctuary organ.
 - **Motion:** To recommend repair and enhancement of the sanctuary organ for endowment funds and to task Pastor Eric Wooldridge and Alan Melrose to pull together a group to present this to the endowment board on behalf of the council. Harris/Gillette. Motion carried.
- **Pastor Eric Housing Allowance Designation:** Pastor Eric requested that the council allow him to change the amount of funding going to his housing allowance. This will not change his overall compensation but just how much is going to salary and how much is going to housing allowance.
 - **Motion:** Rev. Eric W. Wooldridge shall receive, as a portion of his total defined compensation, a housing allowance of \$36,000 for the year 2017 and all future years unless otherwise provided. The housing allowance shall be so designated in the official church records. Melrose/Thomas. Motion carried.
- **Immigration Issues:** The council considered the proposal from Jamie and Ruthanne Henderson. The group agreed that this is an important issue but without leadership from a group within the congregation, it will not happen. The council and staff will continue to share information that they receive on immigration issues through our communication channels.

Snacks

The group enjoyed snacks provided by Pastor Eric Wooldridge and some cake left over from Alex Hawkins wedding shower.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah:**
 - Alex Hawkins is getting married on April 29.
 - Anne let the group know that the 6th graders earned \$775 on Easter breakfast. She reminded the group about Mission Sunday on May 7th and reminded them that auction items were still being accepted. On May 21st, the 6th grade class is hosting Mike Johnson of Tacoma Rescue Mission for a conversation on homelessness. This may become an adult and youth conversation.
 - Pastor Chuck shared that Ross Chamberlain's mom fell with serious neuro injuries. She is being placed on hospice. Please keep Ross and his family in your prayers.
 - Alan shared that he had an interesting experience attending church on Easter in Virginia. As a stranger, he found people automatically thinking he was a Christmas & Easter attendee. This was a good reminder of how we treat visitors.
 - Eric asked if there was anyone who could bring cookies for Ed Yadwinski's memorial service on April 28.
 - Alex shared that she is still working to start a group for 20 year olds at the church. Jaymie Baunach, Katie Burkhauser, and Nick Brinkmeyer have expressed interest in helping her start the group in the fall.
- **President's Report:** Jonathan shared that we will continue the quarterly church chats with Anne sharing a financial update with the congregation on May 14.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Anne shared that March had been very soft. Income was at 95% of budget. Year to date income was at 92% of budget. The Finance Committee will meet to discuss on May 4. They will prepare a congregational update to be shared on May 14. Christi again stressed the importance of first fruits giving through Simply Giving or other electronic means.
 - **Motion:** Accept the treasurer's report. Harris/Hawkins. Motion passed.

Sending

- **Review of Assignment and Tasks:** The council reviewed the tasks throughout the meeting.
 - Jonathan will call and talk with Jamie & Ruthanne about the immigration issue.
 - Pastor Chuck will continue conversations with the Auburn School District.
 - Pastor Eric & Alan Melrose will work on a proposal to the Endowment Board for the sanctuary organ.
 - Anne will send out a Doodle poll for the Council Retreat.
 - The council will continue planning for participation in Volunteer Recognition Day.
- **Adjournment:**
 - **Motion:** Adjourn the meeting. Melrose/Thomas. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Baunach, Treasurer
(for Sheila McLaughlin, Secretary)