

Messiah Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2017

Present: Anne Baunach, Cathy Hawkins, Alex Littlefield, Christi Gillette, Alan Melrose, Lori Revely, Charlie Radabaugh, Sheilia McLaughlin, Jonathan Kniss, Charlie Thompson, Joe Hamell

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

Excused: Barry Brenan

Guests: Tami Petrina-Auburn School District

Gathering Time

- **Call to Order & Introductions:** President Jonathan Kniss called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
- **Opening Devotion & Prayer:** Charlie Radabaugh shared a devotion and led the group in prayer.
- **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Wooldridge/Baunach. Motion passes
- **Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion to adopt the minutes as written. Wooldridge/Baunach. Motion passes
- **Correspondence:** Jonathan read a letter that he wrote on behalf of the council to church staff to thank them for their service. The letter will be added to the back of these minutes.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **Partnership with the Auburn School District** – Tami Petrina, who works on early learning and special education for the Auburn School District, addressed the council. She shared the school districts desire to add an ECEAP program at Messiah Lutheran Church, if funding becomes available through the ESD. Currently, the school district offers three kinds of early learning programs: ones for children identified as having disabilities, Head Start, which is federally funded, and ECEAP, which is state funded. ECEAP is designed to serve children, ages 4 – 5, who are living in poverty. Auburn has requested funds to increase the number of children that they are able to serve in ECEAP. This funding goes through the local Educational Service District (ESD). New funding is anticipated through the increases in educational funding happening in the state of Washington. The goal of the state is to serve all children in need with preschool programs. There is currently no ECEAP or Head Start program in North Auburn. If a program was opened at Messiah, the goal would be to serve children in the Washington Elementary School Service area, although the geographic area served would likely be much larger in the beginning.

Both the ESD and Auburn's Facilities Director have been out to look at the site. They believe that MLC's building would work well with a few building modifications. A door would need to be added into the wall between classroom A & B. The temporary wall would need to come down between classrooms C & D.

The council asked many questions which Tami addressed:

Who would the program serve? The program would serve families at the highest levels of poverty. Homeless families and transitional families are the highest priority. There is currently a long waiting list of families in need. Many of the families are bilingual and would need ELL services. Each classroom would have a teacher, assistant teacher, and family support worker.

How long would the contract be? The school district signs a contract annually with the ESD. However, the goal is always for a long-term commitment. With the facility modifications that they would be investing in, their hope would be that we would commit for at least five years.

How many children can we serve? Each classroom would have 18 – 20 children. Right now, the program has been half day programs – but the state would prefer that we move to a full-day model. The goal at MLC would be to have two classrooms: one would be a full-day program and one would house two half-day programs (one morning and one afternoon) Both classes would meet five days a week.

How will individuals from the church be able to get involved? After passing a background check and understanding the confidentiality needs of the program, our members would be welcome to volunteer. There are also family evening activities which could involve members.

What is the timing? The state is hoping to add these new programs to start September 30. Because the legislature is still in session, it may be July or August before they get final word. Therefore, it might be a bit chaotic in the beginning.

What are the food needs of the program? The children are served both breakfast and lunch. The food could be prepared in Messiah's kitchen or it could be prepared off-site and brought to Messiah.

Is additional security needed? Tami did not feel additional security to the building would be needed. She said that they have seen that there are locking cabinets in the classrooms and other safety items that would allow our building to be used.

Beyond the classrooms, what other facilities would be needed? Tami discussed the possibility of using the kitchen for meal preparation. She also said that they would need space for phones and copier. They would also need a small space that could be used for parent meetings and other special services.

What are the next steps? Tami would like to see the church prepared to move forward if they get the green light for facility modifications and/or funding for the program.

The council discussed the opportunity and continues to see this as a positive opportunity for Messiah. The Executive team will get together soon to look at next steps.

Implement Our Mission & Ministry

- **Appointments to Mission Portfolio 2.0** – Mary Bergland, Chuck, Charlie, Arden Barden, Christi Gillette still waiting to hear from Ross Chamberlain Move to approve these five individuals. McLaughliLittlefield/ – motion passes.
- **Endowment Fund Proposal:** Alan and Eric met with the endowment committee after last month's council meeting to talk with them about our desire to see funding spent on organ repairs. Alan presented one item that they could fund which would cost approximately \$5,000. The Endowment Committee came back with two changes to the proposal: they increased the amount to \$7,500 and they asked Alan to meet with Worship & Music to look at other needs over the next few years. Alan will continue to work with the Endowment Committee on this.

Snacks

The group enjoyed snacks provided by Charlie Radabaugh.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah:**
 - Chuck – 2 deaths in the congregation have happened. Sophie Gunderson died and her funeral will be on Monday at 11am. Carolyn Peckenpaugh has also died. Her funeral will be on June 14th at 11am.

- Kelly – Mission Sunday raised \$7300. Some of the kids have been working on sock drives at their schools to support this work. We will have over 700 pairs of socks donated to use at Messiah and give to our two recipient organizations.
- Christi – 9th grade AOB retreat is happening this weekend. Nancy Kirkpatrick has again made quilts for all the seniors.
- Sheila – AOB Sunday is on June 4th
- **President's Report –**
 - Volunteer recognition June 25 after 3rd Service. Staff and Council will be doing skits. Lunch will be served.
 - Council packet to be out the Monday of the meeting. All reports due by Sunday.
 - Gillette's offering their house for the July meeting. Bring your family, your own meat, a drink to share, and side dish.
 - Retreat September 15-16
- **Treasurer's Report:** Pastor Chuck presented the treasurer's report. School district using the building more and more and the rent has been good. Our income is down but so are our expenses.
 - Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. McLaughlin/ Gillette

Sending

- **Review of Assignment and Tasks:**
 - Executive team to meet to discuss the school proposal.
- **Adjournment:**
 - Motion: Adjourn the meeting. Wooldridge/Littlefield. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheilia McLaughlin
Council Secretary