

Council Minutes

Messiah Lutheran Church

September 17, 2020

Present: Anne Baunach, Nick Brinkmeyer, Dave Carlsen, Dave Foss, Rev Chuck Harris, Christi Gillette, Josh Luebke, Savannah Phelan, Charlie Radabaugh, Janene Smith, and Sandi Wollum

Absent: Mike McLaughlin and Savannah Phelan

Gathering Time

- **Call to Order**
Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.
- **Opening Devotion / Prayer**
Dave shared a devotion from Psalm 116 about sharing your faith.
- **Adoption of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as presented. (Wollum / Carlsen) Motion passed.
- **Approval of Minutes: August 20, 2020**
Motion to approve the minutes as presented. (Harris / Brinkmeyer) Motion passed.
- **Financial Report**
Janene gave an update on financials. She shared that August was not a strong month financially. There were more expenditures than revenue. We were in the negative of \$12,976. Our ending fund balance is \$59,817. Part of this is that the school district is behind in rent by two months. The Seventh Day Adventist church is also behind in their rent – they are slowly catching up. Motion to accept the financial report. (Carlsen / Harris) Motion passed.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **Faith Formation Task Force Report**
Anne and Sandi talked through the faith formation report and recommendations. The committee brought forward six recommendations to the council for consideration:
 1. We recommend that Messiah adopt the ELCA's vision and four components of faith formation and the building blocks for faith formation at Messiah.
 2. We recommend that Messiah commit to providing organized and guided Faith Formation to individuals in every age and stage in their life. We should also recognize "Faith formation in the first third of life is a *critical* ministry of the church ... and is part of the promise faith communities make at baptism."
 3. We recommend that the council call a full-time equivalent pastor or deacon with a primary focus on faith formation of children and youth.
 4. We recommend that the responsibility for coordination of adult faith formation (including both adult faith formation classes and small group ministries) become part of the job description of our senior pastor.

5. To show the importance of faith formation for all ages and stages of life and to increase participation, we recommend that the education hour not conflict with a church service.
6. Considering current budget constraints and our belief in the importance of faith formation for all ages at Messiah, we recommend that we redirect resources from our partnership program to faith formation.

There were conversations around the various recommendations from the task force. Chuck shared budget numbers to show that we can afford to make these changes in the same budget range that we are currently operating. Motion to approve the faith formation report with the change of the word 'hire' to call in recommendation #3. [Harris / Wollum]

- **In Person Worship Service**

Charlie shared an idea of having people park in the parking lot while watching the service on their personal devices with the possibility of providing communion in the parking lot. We will consider this in the future depending on weather and interest. It will continue to be an item on the agenda for future months.

- **Stewardship Drive**

The Finance Committee in partnership with Josh, Anne, and Charlie are in a course right now on Beginning a Culture of Generosity. Ross, Anne and Chuck have been working together on the campaign. Charlie encouraged council members to be prepared to do their statement of intent by the next council meeting on October 15, 2020. Our goal is to receive between 115 – 118 statements of intent from the congregation.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah**

- Chuck shared that Wilma Tipton passed away last week. Towards the end of October, there will be a family service in the sanctuary. It will be live streamed for friends and family.
- Chuck shared that we will have a baptism on September 27.
- Dave asked when we are next updating our church directory. We will look at doing something like this once we can get back together.
- Josh shared that he is glad that his week of preaching is over.
- Charlie thanked the office staff and Chuck for all their work keeping the office going during this time.

- **Pastor's Report**

The council reviewed the written report submitted by Pastor Chuck. Jan recently launched the new website. She will continue to add content and functionality. There is a great new calendar function on the website. If anyone has older, good quality black and white photos of Messiah, please share them with Jan with a cc: to Chuck. A huge thank you to Walt Richards for shepherding several building projects. This past month has been a focus on the back fence.

- **President's Report**

Charlie asked if we could look at the possibility of bringing on the Pastor of Care & Welcome in October or November instead of waiting to the first of the year. With some of the budget changes within the staff, there would be the opportunity to do some since we are underneath the budget now. This would be a 10 hour a week position. Motion to move forward with hiring a Pastor of Care & Welcome for 10 hours a week starting any time after October 1, 2020. [Baunach / Wollum] Motion passed.

Implement Our Mission & Ministry

- **Initiate a Call Process**

Based on the recommendation of the task force and the conversation with the personnel team, the recommendation is to go with an Associate Pastor. Move to initiate a call process for a full-time Associate Pastor with the Southwest Washington Synod using the Faith Formation Task Force report as a guiding source. [Harris / Carlsen] Motion passed.

The next step would be to have a meeting with the associate to the bishop. The council will then need to task a group to complete a Ministry Site Profile. That would go to the synod to supply us with the names of potential candidate. The council would then appoint a call committee at either the October or November committee meeting. This would be six people with one alternate. If this happened on this timeline, we would begin to receive candidate names in early 2021. Our hope would be to have a new associate pastor between April 15 – July 15.

Sending

- **Review of Assignment & Tasks**

- Council members are encouraged to get their commitment of intent cards in by October 15.
- Council members to meet with the assistant to the bishop on October 8 at 7:30 p.m.
- Hold Zoom meeting in next couple of weeks with congregation to share the results of the faith formation report.
- Request to congregation to look for volunteers for the call committee.
- Chuck will talk to Jan and Tia to see if there is an online possibility within One Drive to store council documents so that all council members have access to it.

- **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn the meeting. (Carlsen / Brinkmeyer). Motion carried.

- **Lord's Prayer**

- Pastor Chuck led the group in the Lord's Prayer.