

Council Minutes

Messiah Lutheran Church

October 15, 2020

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

Absent: Dave Carlsen and Sandi Wollum

Gathering Time

- **Call to Order**
Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
- **Opening Devotion / Prayer**
Pastor Chuck shared a devotion about the sea based on several Psalms.
- **Adoption of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as written. (Luebke / Brinkmeyer) Motion passed.
- **Approval of Minutes: September 17, 2020**
Motion to approve the minutes as presented. (Luebke / Brinkmeyer) Motion passed.
- **Financial Report**
Janene gave an update on financials. September was better than August. Receipts were just over \$48,400 and expenses were just over \$48,500. Motion to accept the financial report. (Harris / McLaughlin) Motion passed.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **In Person Worship Service**
We continue to watch the school districts to see when the possibility would be to open our building again. Our policy is to follow the school district. At this point, the neighboring school districts are not planning to return to in person learning until at least second semester.
- **Stewardship Drive**
The Stewardship Drive has started. Charlie reported that it is going well. At this point, Charlie and Chuck are collecting challenges to help launch this part of the stewardship program. Chuck hopes to announce the challenge on Sunday. Charlie reminded all of council to submit their Intent Cards.
- **Debrief Call Process Meeting / Expectations & Guidelines for the Call Process / Transition Team**
The Council debriefed their meeting with Pastor Rebecca Shjerven. The first step is to create the transition team. Charlie asked that members are chosen within two weeks. Charlie asked council members to send names to him in the next week. The goal is to have the MSP submitted before the end of the year. As part of the Pastor's Report, Chuck provided an outline of the call process including various roles of the people engaged in the process. The group discussed the importance of the transparency to the congregation of the call process (not the candidates, but the process.) Move to use the document that Pastor Chuck provided as the working document of all parties during the call process. (Baunach / Luebke). Motion passed.

- **Constant Contact Updates**

Charlie asked the council to consider doing letters to the congregation as part of the constant contact updates that are going out to the congregation. The goal is to get one letter each Wednesday. The letter should be two or three paragraphs. Anne will do the next one to talk about some of the transition in staff. The group discussed the problems of getting information out to the congregation during this time of pandemic.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah**

- Charlie thanked Pastor Chuck and Pastor Susan for their work (as part of pastor appreciation month)
- Dave brought up an additional challenge of Vine Maple Place not being able to hold their annual event. Dave suggested we suggest that church members make larger one-time donations to other charities. (Susan suggested that Dave write this up as a letter for Messiah Weekly.)
- Josh shared that lots of wonderful music is being planned for the holiday season. A shout out to Katie, Jan, Kristy and Tia who are leading this effort. He encouraged all to share with musicians how they are appreciating music since they don't get the feedback that they usually get when worship is in person.
- Hannah McLaughlin, while positive for COVID, is asymptomatic.
- Thursday, October 22 we will have a live stream for Wilma Tipton's memorial service.
- Pastor Susan has written a piece on being in prayer the day of the election.
- Keep Katie Walda in your prayers as her son gets married this weekend.

- **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Chuck submitted a written report to the council. Chuck is finishing up his vacation tomorrow. He reminded all of us to care for each other.

Implement Our Mission & Ministry

- **Calls to Members**

Charlie mentioned that it is time to divide up the directory and have the council do calls to members. This is like we did back in March when the church went to online worship. One question that we can ask is preferred communication method.

Sending

- **Review of Assignment & Tasks**

- Council members are encouraged to get their intent cards in if they have not already done so.
- Council is to send names of potential transition team members to Charlie.
- Council members are to let Charlie know which week they are willing to write a letter for Messiah Weekly. Anne will take next week and Dave Foss will take the following.
- Council members are asked to volunteer to receive a list of congregation members that they are to call in the next two to three weeks.

- **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn the meeting. (Luebke / Harris). Motion carried.

- **Lord's Prayer**

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