

Council Minutes

Messiah Lutheran Church

December 17, 2020

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

Absent:

Gathering Time

- **Call to Order**
Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- **Opening Devotion / Prayer**
Anne shared a devotion focused on joy.
- **Adoption of Agenda**
Motion to approve the agenda as written. (Luebke / Carlsen) Motion passed.
- **Approval of Minutes: November 19, 2020**
Motion to approve the minutes as presented. (Luebke / Gillette) Motion passed.
- **Financial Report**
Janene gave an update on financials. November was a very good month. Receipts were just over \$65,702, and expenses were just over \$52,995. Motion to accept the financial report. (Harris / Wollum) Motion passed.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **In Person Worship Service**
At this point, we still cannot hold in person worship services. The governor has changed the metrics for kids going back to school. We will continue to monitor the Auburn School District and the numbers in our community to look at these decisions. Currently, we have had to move backwards in what we are doing with worship. For example, we can only have one singer now. This will be reviewed again by the governor in January.
- **Stewardship Drive**
Charlie thanked the council for making phone calls. We had a very successful stewardship drive. We ended up with 123 statements of intent turned in. This is the highest number of statements of intent that we have had turned in during the last five years. We would like to set a goal over the next couple of years to get to 150 statements of intent annually. The median pledge was \$3,800. Approximately 60% of the households did increase their giving, although the final tallies are being made. 18 households started their giving immediately helping to boost the 2020 budget.
- **Review of Draft Budget**
A draft budget from the finance/stewardship team was shared. 80% of the budget has been based on statements of intent and only 20% on estimates. With the draft budget, expenses exceed income by \$6,772. The finance committee is recommending that we pull that from reserves. We would still have an approximate three-month reserve for the church. Motion to accept the recommended budget from the

finance team and bring it forward to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting. [Baunach / Brinkmeyer] Motion passed.

- **Congregational Meeting**

Move to hold the congregational meeting on January 31 [Harris / Wollum] Motion passed. The council then talked about how to hold the meeting this year with COVID. There was discussion around how the vote could happen. The executive team will review the recommendations from the synod and will put together a draft plan for the council to review in January.

- **Nominations for Council**

There are three people nearing the end of their term: Christi Gillette, Nick Brinkmeyer, and Dave Carlson. Neither Christi nor Nick are planning to run again. Ross Chamberlain and Mary Berglund are both re-running for the endowment committee as their terms are coming up. We need to identify some members for the memorial committee. The council was asked to send nomination suggestions to Charlie. We will put out a call for nominations in both electronic publications and in Sunday morning announcements.

- **Transition Team**

The transition team met for the first time last evening with Pastor Rebecca Schjerven.

- **Church Van**

There is some conversation about the viability of the church van. It is getting to the end of its life expectancy. When we get closer to returning to in-person worship, we will need to have further discussions about this.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah**

- Dave F went into the church today to do some recording with Tia and realized how much he misses being at church.
- Charlie brought forth a proposal from the executive committee to provide the church staff with two weeks off in recognition of all their time worked during the pandemic. All staff would take off the first two weeks of February. We would pre-record worship services. We would look for individuals to walk the facility, check phone messages, and handle any pastoral emergencies. Pastor Susan volunteered to be the on-call emergency pastor. Move to accept the proposal [Wollum / Baunach] Motion passed unanimously.

- **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Chuck thanked the group for the gift of time.

Implement Our Mission & Ministry

- **Approve Money for Housing Allowance**

Pastor Chuck shared that this is the time each year when the council approves a motion to set aside a certain amount of the compensation of the rostered clergy that can be used as housing allowance. Move to 100% of Pastor Susan's compensation be designated as housing allowance for 2021 and that \$52,000 of Pastor Chuck's compensation be designated as allowance for housing allowance. [Harris / Foss] Motion carried.

Sending

- **Review of Assignment & Tasks**

- The executive team will put together a plan on how to do the annual meeting votes.

- The council will put out a call for potential council members in both electronic publications and in Sunday morning announcements.
- The Executive committee will finalize the communication to the congregation about the suspension of operations for the first two weeks in February.
- Charlie will resend the list of who is sending the council letter for Messiah Weekly for the next couple of weeks.

- **Adjournment**
 - Motion to adjourn the meeting. (Baunach / Brinkmeyer). Motion carried.

- **Lord's Prayer**
 - Anne led the group in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Baunach
Council Secretary