

# Council Minutes

## August 19, 2021

**Present:** Anne Baunach, Jonathan Baunach, Dan Fergueson, Rev Chuck Harris, Rev Susan Kirlin-Hackett, Josh Luebke, Mike McLaughlin, Janene Nelson, Charlie Radabaugh, and Sandi Wollum

**Absent:** Dave Foss

### Gathering Time

- **Call to Order**

Charlie called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

- **Devotions**

Sandi Wollum shared a devotion based on an essay by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

- **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Luebke / McLaughlin) Motion passed.

- **Approval of Minutes: June 17, 2021**

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected. (Wollum / Nelson). Motion passed.

- **Financial Report**

Janene gave an update on financials. Janene reviewed the June financials since the council did not meet in July. We had a positive balance for June of just over \$1,300. In July, we had a positive balance of \$1,883. These are strong results especially for summer. Year to date, we have a positive balance of \$10,075. (Fergueson / Harris). Motion passed.

### Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **In Person Gatherings**

Again, things are changing rapidly. Charlie reported that the gatherings after worship have been fun. We have had a slight uptick in people attending worship in person. We are averaging 55 – 60 people in worship each Sunday. There has been a lot of different people so that various people are rotating in and out each week. Starting this next week, we are no longer doing coffee during fellowship time. People will need to remain masked throughout the fellowship time.

- **Call Committee Update**

The synod has provided the call committee with Rostered Minister Profiles for three candidates. The committee will review these candidates this next Monday night and will finalize interview questions.

- **Amazon Agreement**

We are making a one-year agreement with Amazon to put a trailer in the north parking lot by the garage. They will be paying us rent. It is for the Amazon Scout program. At first, we are not providing internet service or electricity. If things go well, they may add internet and electricity out there and the rent received will be doubled.

- **Fall Plans**

Pastor Chuck shared that we are just completing a survey to be sent out to families with children to see what families are comfortable with doing. It will go out on Friday with a follow-up in Constant Contact on Monday. Pastor Susan will also make some phone calls to families with kids to discuss their comfort level with in-person activities. She will also be doing some relationship building with these families. Plans are also being made for Coffee Fix days where people can gather for fellowship and also take care of some building care projects.

- **Rostered Compensation and Benefit Policy**

Pastor Chuck shared an updated Rostered Compensation and Benefit Policy. It has been finalized from what was presented in June. This shows a baseline of how compensation and benefits will be distributed to rostered personnel. The policy parallels the synod guidelines in most areas. We are choosing to provide health insurance to

the rostered person only (which is a departure from previous years). In the synod guidelines, it also gives a general number for relocation costs. Messiah's policy has "as negotiated." Motion to approve the Rostered Compensation and Benefit Policy as presented. (A. Baunach / McLaughlin). Motion passed.

- **Fall Stewardship Calendar**

Pastor Chuck shared a calendar for the fall stewardship campaign. It has also been shared with the finance team. It is very similar to last year. Again, the hope is that the council and finance committee can help with follow-up phone calls again. There is conversation around a congregational challenge again this year.

## Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah**

- Charlie shared the idea around the Coffee Fix days at the church.
- Charlie gave a "shout out" to Pastor Susan for setting up the council and call committee picture walls. He also recognized her for all her relationship building work in the congregation.
- Charlie gave a "shout out" to Pastor Chuck for his time building relationships in the fellowship time. This is a benefit of not having back-to-back services.

- **Pastors' Reports**

- Pastor Susan shared a written report.
- Pastor Chuck shared that he and his sabbatical coach have been refining his sabbatical plan. He had a great conversation with Pastor Breto with the Seventh Day Adventist Church that meets in our building on Saturdays. They had some financial struggles during last year but are now in a much healthier place. They thanked us for our flexibility during this time and are excited to once again being a good partner paying their full rent. Kirsten is having her other knee replacement on Monday. Josh will be leading worship along with Pastor Susan on Sunday as they prepare for her surgery. Finally, he shared that anxiety is so high right now within individuals and organizations. He believes that much of this is based on grief with the changes in the pandemic. He is continuing to suggest that we remember that when we are not okay – that this is okay. Remember the basics – love God and love each other and we will get through this. God does not promise us an easy road – but he promises to be faithful through the good, the bad, and the indifferent.

## Sending

- **Review of Assignment & Tasks**

- There are no follow-up tasks from this meeting.

- **Adjournment**

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

- **Lord's Prayer**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Anne Baunach  
Council Secretary