

Council Minutes

February 16, 2023

Present: Anne Baunach, Jonathan Baunach, Rev. Bridget Jones, Josh Luebke, Sheila McLaughlin, Lauren Mendez, Janene Nelson, Shannon Spicciati, and Ernest Thomas

Absent: Rev. Chuck Harris, Rev. Susan Kirlin-Hackett,

Gathering Time

- **Book Study**
Sheilia led the group in conversations around Chapters 8-10 of One Coin Found. There was discussion around the next book for Book Study. The decision was made to read In the Margins: A Transgender Man's Journey with Scripture by Shannon T. L. Kearns.
- **Call to Order**
Anne called the meeting to order at 6:53 pm.
- **Welcome New Members**
The council welcomed Pastor Susan, Shannon and Ernest to council.
- **Adoption of Agenda**
Agenda was amended to move "Signatures on MLC Accounts" to after "Council Retreat". Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Luebke/J. Baunach). Motion passed.
- **Approval of Minutes: January 19, 2022**
Motion to approve the minutes as presented. (Nelson/McLaughlin). Motion passed.
- **Financial Report**
Janene Nelson presented the financial report for January. The receipts were \$43,189 and disbursements of \$53,011 leaving a difference of -\$9,822.00. This is due to lower than expected giving and lower income from building rental. There was a question of how passing the plates during the service for offering has impacted giving. No information about that is available at this time. It was suggested that we offer electronic giving options on Sunday mornings especially since so many people do not carry cash. Motion to approve the financial report as presented. (McLaughlin/Mendez). Motion passed.
- **Elections of Officers**
 - **President:** Josh Luebke nominated himself and Anne Baunach nominated herself. A paper ballot was distributed. Anne Baunach was elected as President.
 - **Vice President:** Sheila McLaughlin nominated herself. There were no other nominations. Sheila was elected as Vice President.
 - **Secretary:** Jonathan Baunach nominated himself as Secretary. There were no other nominations. Jonathan was elected as Secretary.
 - **Treasurer:** Natalie Mendez has been asked to be Treasurer. At this point, she has not yet accepted. Motion to elect Natalie as treasurer if she accepts the position. (Luebke/McLaughlin). Motion passed.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **Reconciling in Christ**
Pastor Bridget presented about the Reconciling in Christ process and the starting point. Pastor Bridget emphasized that the importance part of starting is making sure everyone is moving together. The first step is creating a team that can identify and connect with people in the congregation. Pastor Bridget will form that team.
- **Synod Covenant with Creation**

Pastor Bridget presented the Synod Covenant with Creation that will be presented at the Synod meeting. Motion to bring the resolution forward from Messiah (Nelson/J. Baunach). Motion passed.

- **Strategic Plan**

The last strategic plan was 6 years ago and so it is time to work on creating a new plan. The strategic plan would be discussed at a council retreat.

- **Council Retreat**

There was discussion about a council retreat. There was not a consensus of when would work best for council so the executive team will discuss available times and send out a poll to the council.

- **Signatures on MLC Accounts**

- Motion to add Pastor Bridget as a signer of the Youth Account (McLaughlin/Spicciati). Motion passed.
- Motion to remove Tia Monsen and Charlie Radabaugh as signers to the General Account and to add Tia Monsen and Charlie Radabaugh as authorized to access and talk about the General Account with the bank, and to add Dwane Gatzke, Anne Baunach, and Treasurer, when elected, as signers to the General Account (Luebke/Spicciati). Motion passed.
- Motion to add Tia Monsen and Charlie Radabaugh as authorized to access and talk about the Youth Account (J. Baunach / Nelson). Motion passed.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah**

- Anne Baunach shared that Scott Gillette is out of surgery following a motorcycle accident.
- Josh Luebke raised prayers for Katie Walda with the loss of her sister.
- Pastor Bridget raised prayers for the Galle Family with the loss of a family member.
- Lauren Mendez mentioned that Clean Sweep is coming up and mentioned that Messiah could take part in that.

- **Pastors' Reports**

- Pastor Bridget shared that she will reach out to the Faith Formation team to review last year and to think about next year. She also mentioned that high school programming started and is going well.

Sending

- **Review of Assignment & Tasks**

- Council will procure copies of In the Margins: A Transgender Man's Journey with Scripture by Shannon T. L. Kearns.
- Lauren and Ernest will bring snacks/lead devotions for the March meeting
- Lauren will talk to Natalie Mendez about being treasurer. Council will reach out to the congregation about being treasurer if Natalie does not accept.

- **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting. (Luebke/McLaughlin). Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

- **Lord's Prayer**

Anne led the group in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Baunach

Jonathan Baunach
Council Secretary