

Council Minutes

March 16, 2023

Present: Anne Baunach, Jonathan Baunach, Rev. Chuck Harris, Rev. Bridget Jones, Rev. Susan Kirlin-Hackett, Lauren Mendez, Shannon Spicciati, and Ernest Thomas

Absent: Josh Luebke, Sheilia McLaughlin, Janene Nelson

Gathering Time

- **Devotion**
Lauren and Ernest led the group in a devotion.
- **Call to Order**
Anne called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm.
- **Adoption of Agenda**
Motion to amend the agenda to add “Council Treasurer” as an agenda item after “Reconciling in Christ”. Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Kirlin-Hackett/Mendez). Motion passed.
- **Approval of Minutes: February 16, 2023**
Motion to approve the minutes as presented. (Harris/Mendez). Motion passed.
- **Financial Report**
Pastor Chuck presented the financial report for February. Income for the month: \$53,701.90. Expenses for the month: \$58,704.77. This is a difference of -\$5,002.87.
Motion to approve the financial report as presented. (J. Baunach/Spicciati). Motion passed.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **Reconciling in Christ**
Anne Baunach welcomed James Aalgaard, Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Wenatchee, WA, to talk about the Reconciling in Christ process. Grace Lutheran Church has gone through the process recently and talked about his experiences. Pastor Bridget shared the beginnings of the process.
- **Council Treasurer**
Jonathan Baunach offered to step down as Council Secretary and become Council Treasurer. Motion to approve Jonathan Baunach as Council Treasurer (Kirlin-Hackett/Harris). Motion Passed.
Ernest Thomas nominated himself as Council Secretary to fill Jonathan’s Place. Motion to approve Ernest Thomas as Council Secretary (Kirlin-Hackett/J. Baunach). Motion Passed.
Motion to add Jonathan Baunach and Pastor Susan Kirlin-Hackett as signers for the General Fund Account (Spicciati/Harris). Motion Passed.
Motion to add Duane Gatzke, Jonathan Baunach, and Anne Baunach as signers for the Youth Account (Harris/Mendez). Motion Passed.
- **Housing Allowance**
Pastor Chuck presented that the Housing Allowance is part of the salary that is set aside for housing. Motion that, for 2023, Pastor Susan’s housing allowance shall be up to but not exceeding \$17,129.00 (Harris/J. Baunach). Motion Passed.
- **Council Retreat**
After the doodle poll collecting times, May 7th was determined as the best time for the Council Retreat. The retreat will be 1:00 – 6:00.

- **Council Book Study**

Pastor Bridget has procured copies of In the Margins. Lauren will lead the first book study.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah**

- Pastor Chuck shared that nobody is currently going to the Synod Assembly on behalf of Messiah Lutheran Church. He asked that people consider good representatives for Messiah and we will discuss at the next Council meeting. Ernest Thomas volunteered to attend.

- **Pastors' Reports**

- Pastor Susan shared that Senior VBS will be June 25-28 and the theme will be God Talk and will be focused on prayer. Pastor Susan is also starting Golf Lessons in April.
- Pastor Bridget shared that Mission Sunday will be May 7th and there will be a Leadership retreat in May. Pastor Bridget is also planning a youth trip to Renton in May and is planning Easter services.

Sending

- **Review of Assignment & Tasks**

- Council will read Forward, Introduction, and Chapter 1 of In the Margins.
- Lauren will bring snacks and lead book study at the next meeting.
- Ernest will send out a reminder for the Council Retreat on May 7th.
- Council will reflect on possible representatives for the Synod Assembly.

- **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting. (Kirlin-Hackett/J. Baunach). Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

- **Lord's Prayer**

Pastor Bridget led the group in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Baunach

Jonathan Baunach
Council Secretary