

Council Minutes

August 17, 2023

Present: Anne Baunach, Jonathan Baunach, Rev. Chuck Harris, Rev. Bridget Jones, Josh Luebke, Janene Nelson, and Shannon Spicciati

Absent:, Rev. Susan Kirlin-Hackett, Sheila McLaughlin, Lauren Mendez, Ernest Thomas

Gathering Time

- **Book Study**

Anne Baunach led the group in a book study of In the Margins (Chapters 6 & 7). Pastor Chuck volunteered to lead the next book study (Chapters 8 & 9) and Jonathan volunteered to lead the October book study (Chapters 10 & Conclusion). It was mentioned that the current book study book is almost finished and it is time to talk about the next book. Council was asked to think of what books we can read next and bring ideas to the next meeting.

- **Call to Order**

Anne called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

- **Adoption of Agenda**

There were amendments made to the agenda to change the Book Study to “Chapters 6 & 7” and to change the next council meeting to “September 21”. Motion to approve the agenda as amended. (Nelson/J. Baunach). Motion passed.

- **Approval of Minutes: July 20, 2023**

Motion to approve the minutes as presented. (Harris/Nelson). Motion passed.

- **Financial Report**

Jonathan reported on the finances. July was very good especially compared to other months. The income for July was \$59,950 and the expenses were \$57,095 leaving a positive difference of \$2,854. This was due to higher than budgeted identified giving due to possibly the extra Sunday in July and higher than expected rent due to ASD and other back payments of rent. Janene pointed out a discrepancy between reports that will be addressed at the finance committee meeting.

Motion to approve the financial report as presented. (Nelson/Harris). Motion passed.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **Strategic Planning Update**

Chuck shared that we have a strategic plan for 2023-2024 but it is time to start discussing a strategic plan for 2025 and beyond. Pastor Bridget knows some strategic plan consultants and is going to talk to them with some ideas. Council will discuss the strategic plan at the October council retreat. Chuck will create a doodle poll for the council to fill out with different days for that retreat so that it can be scheduled.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah**

- Three Messiah Staff members attended the Auburn School District Back to School event earlier today and had a great time, despite the heat.

- **Pastors' Reports**

- Pastor Chuck shared that church staff is seeing the Barbie movie soon
- Pastor Bridget shared that Faith Formation is moving ahead. The trip to FLBC went well. Family VBS is going strong. The annual Backpack Blessing is September 10th. For this next school year, all Faith Formation will happen on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and teachers are needed for the different age groups.

Pastor Bridget is planning on taking a group of youth to next year's National Youth Gathering and is looking at including their curriculum in Faith Formation. Young Adult VBS went well.

Implement Our Mission and Ministry

- **National Night Out**
 - Shannon and Jonathan shared that National Night Out went really well. We had a good group of Messiah people and some community members. We are excited to do it again next year
- **Child Safety Policy Update**
 - Josh had no update at this time.
- **Solar Panel Project**
 - Pastor Chuck shared that he talked to the Puget Sound Energy representatives that were at National Night Out. They mentioned that they recently put solar panels on a church in Kent. Chuck reached out to that church and got the name of the company that installed them. Tia and Charlie are working with that company to create a possible proposal for the church that would cover about 77% of the church's typical electricity usage. There are many grants available for solar projects. The only issue is that the church will need to pay for the entire project up front and then most of the grants will reimburse after the project is completed.

Sending

- **Review of Assignment & Tasks**
 - Council will read Chapters 8 & 9 of In the Margins.
 - Pastor Chuck will bring snacks and lead book study at the next meeting.
 - Jonathan Baunach will bring snacks and lead book study for the October meeting.
 - Pastor Chuck will create a doodle poll for possible October retreat dates and Council will complete the poll in a timely manner.
 - Council will bring ideas of books for our next book study to the next meeting.
- **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting. (J. Baunach/Harris). Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
- **Lord's Prayer**

Anne Baunach led the group in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Baunach

Jonathan Baunach
Council Treasurer