

Council Minutes

September 21, 2023

Present: Jonathan Baunach, Rev. Chuck Harris, Rev. Susan Kirlin-Hackett, Lauren Mendez, Josh Luebke, and Ernest Thomas

Absent: Anne Baunach, Rev. Bridget Jones, Shannon Spicciati, Sheilia McLaughlin, and Janene Nelson

Gathering Time

- **Book Study: Between the Margins Ch. 8 & Ch.9**
Pastor Harris led the discussion.
- **Call to Order**
Jonathan called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
- **Adoption of Agenda**
Motion to adopt agenda. (Pastor Chuck/Pastor Susan). Motion passed.
We will be looking to find a new book study to do as we complete Between the Margins. We will table that decision until the Oct. 19th meeting.
- **Approval of Minutes: August 17, 2023**
Motion to approve the minutes as presented. (Lauren/Pastor Susan). Motion passed.
- **Financial Report**
Jonathan presented the financial report for August. Income for the month: \$54,129.14. Expenses for the month: \$53,931.99. This is a difference of \$197.15.
Discrepancy that was discovered last month has been fixed and every this as it should be.
Motion to approve the financial report as presented. (Josh/Ernest). Motion passed.

Reflection on Mission, Vision & Core Values

- **Strategic Planning Update**
 - Council Retreat will take place on Sunday, October 29th from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. We will be evaluating our work from the Spring retreat and begin the initial conversation around our next strategic planning process.
 - As a council we will begin the next strategic planning process as the previous planning was in 2016. Pastor Chuck has created a potential timeline in order to complete this.

Accountability

- **For the Good of Messiah**
 - Praises to Pastor Bridgett for the work she has done in getting Faith in Action started. Her work and dedication has been admirable.
 - Messiah Choir has been great with the song selection. Katie has done a fantastic job leading that.
- **Pastors' Reports**
 - Baptism Project
 - Will be sending out postcards in the celebration of congressional member's child's baptismal birthday.

- o Civics Academy
 - Pastor Bridgett is learning about different levels of government and how our city interacts with local, state, and federal employees. This academy is open to anyone who lives in Auburn and is interested in learning about the ins and outs of the city.
- o Cooling Center
 - No one took advantage of the center when it was being offered. Looking into changing the timeframe as a way to help those to cool off.
- o Care Team
 - In July, hosting a meal and bible study group. It would be in the summer months and take place once a month. This would be specific for our older (Actioneers) demographic.
- Child's Safety Update
 - o Only some changes in the policy. The policy has more gender inclusive and affirming language now. In the near future there is hope to create an Elderly Safety Plan. Including in this document is background checks timeframe and drivers (outside and inside the MLC site). Sections 4-6 have had the changes done to it besides the overall gender inclusive and affirming language of the policy.
 - o There will be an update on Messiah's former titles for positions being changed to its current title.
 - o Once the changes and all council has looked over Child's Safety draft it will then go on to be put up for approval.
- Solar Panel Update
 - o Currently needing to come up with \$260,000 upfront before getting the project started. The team behind this is looking for ways to get this funding. Will be doing a trip up to Kent United Methodist to talk with their experience with getting solar panels installed in their church. The church would be capped out of 100,000 kilowatts of storing and using power.

Sending

- **Review of Assignment & Tasks**

- o Jonathan will lead Ch. 10, finishing the book study on Between the Margins.
- o Deciding on the next book study. Please bring between 1 or 2 possible suggestions.
- o Please review the Child's Safety draft in finding in changes that maybe need.

- **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting. (Pastor Chuck/Josh). Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

- **Lord's Prayer**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest Thomas

Ernest Thomas
Council Secretary