

Messiah Lutheran Church | ELCA – Council Meeting
Sunday, July 21, 2024 at 11:15 noon | Messiah Fellowship Hall

Council members present: Michele Wilson, Carolyn Lawhorn, Jon Driskill, Angela Kronau,
 Susan Hamilton, Becky Breeden, Cristall Mount, Pastor Mark
 Council members absent: Davin Henrik, Jack Wilder

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Reporting Group	Leader	Council Liaison	Action	Notes
MINISTRY TEAMS				
Care	Illy Wood	Susan Hamilton		
Disciple	Mary Williamson	Michele Wilson	X	
Invite	Kate Spears	Davin Henrik	X	New Members
Serve	Connie Cole	Jack Wilder		
Worship	Jane Mason	Jon Driskill	X	Sound System/Live Streaming/Worship Assistant scheduling
SUPPORT TEAMS				
Badenhop	Mary Ellen Whitson	Becky Breeden		
Connect	Michele Wilson	Susan Hamilton		
Finance	Steve Hess	Michele Wilson		
Personnel	Michele Wilson	Davin Henrik	X	Staff Requests/Gift for Pastor Laura
Property	Jon Driskill	Michele Wilson	X	Fires/Teach Group/Use of tables/chairs
SPECIAL GROUPS				
BAM (Disciple)	Don Lawhorn	Carolyn Lawhorn		Need for new leader
DJC (Serve)	L. Wilder, M. Driskill	Jack Wilder		
Fellowship (Invite)	C. Lawhorn, J. Mennel	Cristall Mount		
Policy (Support)	Mike Driskill	Angela Kronau		
Stewardship (Finance)	Michele Wilson	Becky Breeden		
WELCA (Disciple)	Anne Tinker	Cristall Mount		
STAFF				
Parish Nurse	Mary Sophia Hawks	n/a		
Interim Senior Pastor	Pastor Mark Cerniglia	n/a		
Director of Music	Mary Phillips	n/a		

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Angela | Lunch & Opening Devotion: Michele Wilson | Approval of June Minutes

Angela called the meeting to order at 11:55. Michele opened with a devotion. Angela requested a motion to accept the May Council Meeting Minutes; Susan H. so moved that they be approved, Michele W. seconded that motion and they were approved unanimously by all Council members. Angela then requested a motion to accept the June Council Retreat Minutes: Michele W. made a motion to accept the June Council Retreat Minutes, Jon D. seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously by all Council members.

2. Tree Line on Golf Club Road—Mike Tinker

This topic is postponed until a later meeting, since Mike T. was unable to attend today's meeting.

3. Finance Update – Steve Hess

Hi Council, please find attached the **May** and **YTD** Financials.

- **2024** Income and Spending plan \$29,878 per month
- **May** General Fund **Income** was \$8,060 below plan. (73% of plan)
 - General Fund income is \$3,124 below plan YTD. 4%
 - General Fund Income is \$2,610 below last year at this same time.
- **April** General Fund **Expenses** were \$3,215 below Plan.
 - General Fund Expenses are \$1,276 above plan YTD.
 - General Fund Expenses are \$7,403 below last year at this same time.
- **April** General Fund **Unrestricted Cash** reserves increased to **\$20,754**
 - This is 3.0 weeks' worth of cash.
 - At this uncomfortably low level of unrestricted cash, I recommend spending below plan where possible for June.
- Other **May** items to note:
 - Members may have diverted giving from general fund to Water heater
 - In 5 months, Pastor Mark spent 78% of his Continuing Ed allowance.
 - In 5 months, Pastor Mark has spent 163% of our Sr. Pastor Auto allowance.
 - In 5 months, Supply Clergy expense through May is at 174% of annual plan.
 - In 5 months, Building repairs are at 68% of our planned spending at \$10,917.
 - Luther ridge Camp fund is negative \$756 because initial payments have been made
 - \$7,855 has been paid for the Kitchen Hot Water Heater - \$11K is on hand for completion
 - \$3,400 2024 Creekmore endowment was received

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding **May** and **YTD** financials.

Please make sure Purchase orders are being completed and approved before making purchases.

Kindest Regards,

Steve

Hi Council, please find attached the June and YTD Financials.

- **2024 Income and Spending plan \$29,878 per month**
- **June General Fund Income** was \$2,639 below plan.
 - General Fund income is \$5,763 below plan YTD. 3% off (giving is 5% off)
 - General Fund Income is \$3,508 below last year at this same time.
- **June General Fund Expenses** were \$1,314 below Plan.
 - General Fund Expenses are \$39 below plan YTD.
 - General Fund Expenses are \$9,845 below last year at this same time.
- **June General Fund Unrestricted Cash** reserves increased to **\$19,429**
 - This is 2.8 weeks' worth of cash.
 - At this uncomfortably low level of unrestricted cash, I recommend spending below plan where possible for July.
- **Other June Items to note:**
 - In 6 months, Pastor Mark has spent 215% of our Sr. Pastor Auto allowance.
 - In 6 months, Supply Clergy expense is at 174% of annual plan.
 - In 6 months, Building repairs are at 68% of our planned spending at \$10,917.
 - Luther ridge Camp fund is negative \$756 - we need to make up this difference now that the camp is complete
 - Kitchen Hot Water Heater is complete - \$2,075 balance will be added to building maintenance fund next month
 - \$1000 in giving was delayed to next month - unsigned member check
 - A Christmas tree \$1,501 and Hymn Board \$180 was charged to memorial fund
 - Starting July 1 Kristin will move to 20 hrs. per week and ½ Salary
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Please let me know if you have any questions regarding June and YTD financials.

Please make sure Purchase orders are being completed and approved before making purchases.

Kindest Regards,

Steve

4. Correspondence, updates, building use requests, etc.

A question about a building use request submitted by UT Medical Center, Brain & Spine Institute was raised as to the fee assessed—was the fee monthly or yearly? Council members agreed that the fee was a monthly charged and will be changed to reflect that.

Dr. Sarah King, director of the TEACH Group, LLC responded to an email that the Executive Council Committee had requested after Dr. King approached Messiah outlining her plans to expand her program at our church. As a result of the committee's communications with Dr. King, we have arranged to meet with her, via

Zoom, Wednesday, July 24th, to discuss, in more detail, what she will need and expect from us to carry out her plans for expansion of her program.

5. Monthly Reports

Disciple: The Disciple Committee has been very pleased with the Orange Curriculum used during the 2023-2024 year and would like to use it again for the upcoming 2024-2025 year. The cost has increased to \$1007.00 and will come from the Disciple account. Cristall M. made a motion to approve that purchase and Jon Dr. seconded the motion. Council approved the motion unanimously.

Personnel: Pastor Laura Henrik has submitted her resignation as Youth Pastor for Messiah since she has accepted the interim chaplain position at the Episcopol School of Knoxville. She will still to continue supporting children and youth activities here at Messiah on a volunteer basis. Council proposed that we purchase a gift for her and host a “farewell” event Sunday, August 4th, in appreciation of her service to Messiah.

Michele W. also introduced the newly formed Mutual Ministry Team at Messiah. This is a team that will act as a liason to staff should there develop issues that parishoners encounter, but do not feel comfortable speaking directly with staff members. The team will meet quarterly and the meeting will be announced several weeks prior, so that any concerns can be presented to the team members, who will then present those concerns to the intended staff member(s) for resolution. The current team members are Mike Driskill, Beth Ford and Craig Stewart.

Invite: The New Member Orientation will be held Sunday, July 28th. New members will be introduced to the polity of Messiah and have the opportunity to meet members who work on the different committees and teams here, as well. The new members include Paul Jones, Joyce Caldwell, Paul and Millie Abelquist, Lawrence Terry, our visiting family from Burundi (Marcel, Cesarie, Cedrick, Fazilli, Ornella, and Destine Lwanga), David Achoto, Debbie Roser and Mike Valpredo. Michele W. moves that Council accepts these persons as new members to Messiah, Carolyn L. seconds the motion and Council approves the motion unanimously.

Worship: The Worship Committee wants to reschedule the outdoor Service (that was rained out in June) to Sunday, September 15th. A concern about siting the assembly on the west side of the building was brought up and a discussion of alternative sites ensued. Jon D. agreed to speak with the Worship committee about these concerns.

Badenhop Fund Steering Committee : Concerns from our online service members about the lack of quality sound equipment, which affects their ability to hear presentations during service was addressed. The committee has agreed to offer monies to update the current tech equipment in the sanctuary. Steve Hess says that there is \$600 available to allow that expenditure.

Pastor Mark brought up the fact that, after reviewing his yearly mileage was spent primarily visiting Messiah's elderly members who use our online services. He has brought this to Mary Sophia's attention and she will be presenting this at the next Badenhop Fund Committee meeting.

Property: Jon D. reported that over the past couple of months the church's water bill almost tripled, resulting in a notification sent to Messiah from KUB about the increase usage. Though the handicapped toilet in the ladies room had been repaired earlier this year, Jon discovered that it had started leaking again, but that the second toilet in that restroom was also leaking, though he could not determine where the leak was coming from. He turned off the water line running to the second toilet and will notify a plumber to come in and check/repair both toilets. Since cutting the water to the second toilet, the water bill has dropped back to previous normal levels.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark wants to use his third and fourth weeks of annual vacation the week of December 26-January 2 and one week in February (which is slightly past his one year anniversary). He reminded Council that as we approach the one-year mark of his contract that we will need to decide if we want to extend his contract. He says that typical extensions for an interim is for three months at a time, depending on how close the Call Committee is to recommending a candidate.

Pastor Mark has planned a field trip to Montgomery to visit the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The dates chosen are September 19-21 and this is a trip that is open to anyone who might be interested in attending. He is requesting that the remainder of his continuing education funds be used to help cover his expenses for the trip.

6. Updated Benevolence Policy to Review and Approved

The updated Benevolence Policy was reviewed by Council. After questions about the inclusion of Justice Knox as a resource, Michele W. made a motion to approve

the updated Benevolence Policy (with corrections), Becky B. seconded the motion and Council approved the motion unanimously.

7. Call Committee Update

The Call Committee will hold their first in-person meeting Tuesday, July 23. Their first task will be to choose a chair person that will be their contact with the Bishop's office. There are also a few narrative questions on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) that they will need to complete.

8. Sign Up for Meals & Devotions for August-December 2024

August 18: Meal: Susan Hamilton Devotion: Angela Kronau

September 15: Meal: Devotion:

October: Meal; Jack Wilder Devotion: Jack Wilder

November 17: Meal: Cristall Mount Devotion:

December: Meal: TBD Devotion: Becky Breeden

9. Updated Wedding Policy to Review and Approve

After reviewing the updated Wedding Policy, a recommendation was made to reword the item on pg. 69 (under **Use of the Church**) from

“Alcoholic beverages are strictly forbidden and are not permitted anywhere on church premises (with the exception of wine expressly for use in Holy Communion.)”

To

“Alcoholic beverages can be permitted on a case-by-case basis with approval by pastor and facilitator.”

Council agreed also that the fees listed will be updated to parallel fees charged in other settings comparable to Messiah's facilities.

Michele W. made a motion to accept the updated Wedding Policy (with corrections), Jon D. seconded the motion and Council voted unanimously to approve the updated Wedding Policy (with corrections).

10. Other Business

None.

11. Adjourn with prayer

Pastor Mark adjourned us with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Sunday, August 18 at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.
Susan Hamilton will provide lunch and Angela Kronau will provide the devotion.**

Reports due: Thursday, August 8.

Executive Committee: Tuesday, August 13 at 6:30 via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by: Carolyn Lawhorn

Date: July 23, 2024