**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

**MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

**SCHEDULED MEETING**

**Sunday, October 16, 2022**

(Present) Becky BREEDEN, Tom COLE, Jon DRISKILL, VP Mike DRISKILL, President Debbie HAMPSTEAD, Rachel RUSHWORTH HOLLANDER, Craig STEWART, Secretary Sharon SWEENEY, Pastor Susan THISELL, Andy WALLER, Lori WEST, Michele WILSON; Kate Spears [guest]; (Zoom) none; (Absent) Cristall Mount

1. Call to Order: Debbie opened with prayer, and we enjoyed an excellent lunch provided by Sharon. Debbie began the meeting at 1:00 PM. Sharon read a devotion and prayer from the Women’s Devotional Bible to start.
2. Approval of September minutes: motion by Rachel, seconded and approved.
3. Invite request: creation of a “Connect” Ministry Team. Kate presented a request for a more concerted effort to help publicity of Messiah’s recent “community momentum.” Connect would function as a publicity and logistics “umbrella” for other teams. Council believes Connect functions would best fall under Support. Request served as a motion, seconded and approved.
4. Web site update: Kate noted new Messiah’s new site is built with Wix, which is more accessible and easier to edit. Michele and Kate are still refining this. Motion by Lori to approve funding for this, seconded and approved. (Kate left meeting at this point.)
5. Worship Request: 12 Preaching days off per year for Pastor Susan (discussion points follow):
   1. This includes 6 weeks already covered by Pastor’s vacation and continuing education, i.e. 6 “new” weeks only.
   2. Pastor Susan noted this request focused on her single biggest block of time; typical sermon preparation is 10 to 15 hours, averaging about 12. This time would be applied to other tasks.
   3. This adds supply preaching costs to the church budget, i.e. $175 x 6 = $1050. Pastor Laura would be paid, but other sermons may be donated work by in-house pastors. The Synod’s free pre-recorded sermons are another option.
   4. Confidential discussion followed with Pastor Susan out of the room.
   5. Debbie forwarded motion; seconded and passed.
6. Partners in Celebration: Messiah to provide $100 quarterly donation. Motion by Lori, seconded and passed.
7. Flat fee for Embroidery Guild:
   1. At same fee as last year: Motion by Michele, seconded, vote failed.
   2. At fee of $930 (approx. 10% increase): Motion by Sharon, seconded and passed.
8. Disciple recommendation: hire a Youth Minister as a part-time hourly person (discussion points follow):
   1. Pastor described proposed details of this. Pastor Laura Henrik has agreed to do this work.
   2. Initial time estimated at 5 hours/week and $30/hour; approximately $600/month or $7500/year.
   3. Badenhop Fund will provide 100% of 2022 costs.
   4. Badenhop Fund will provide 50% of 2023 cost up to $5000 (note, this allows expansion of initial time estimate for the Youth Minister, up to a total cost of $10,000/year).
   5. Maximum liability for Messiah general budget next year is thus $5000.
   6. Pastor forwarded motion; seconded and passed.
9. Disciple recommendation: hire a Nursery Attendant. This person will help at the Prayground if no one in the nursery. Recommendation serves as motion; seconded and passed.
10. Event scheduling: Reminder from Kristin to coordinate events and meeting through her, especially when changes occur. Critical to coordinating the church calendar.
11. Finance report: reviewed. No action required.
12. Worship report: Considering omitting a Christmas Day service; falls on Sunday following a big Christmas Eve service. Congregation to bring photos of loved ones for All Saint’s Day and Blue Christmas.
13. Property report: Jon discussed lack of coordination for events needing technical support. Lakeshore event and Oktoberfest were “last second” issues. Need to discuss logistical support in early planning phases. When a space or sound/video system component is altered, put it back when you’re done. Michele has prepared a checklist to help with this and copies were distributed for comments.
14. Other reports: briefly reviewed per agenda. No action required.
15. Nominating committee update: Angela Kronau, Sarah Baker, and Jack Wilder yes; Kate Spears and Lizzie Majors maybe.
16. Kristin expressed special thanks to JON DRISKILL for keeping this place from falling in on us - heartily endorsed by Council!
17. Adjournment: Motion by Lori; seconded and passed.