

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL
December 17, 2023
Home of Mike Driskill and Beth Ford

2023 Members Present: Mike Driskill, Debbie Hampstead, Jon Driskill, Angela Kronau, Becky Breeden, Pastor Laura Henrick, Jack Wilder, Michele Wilson, Sharon Sweeney

2023 Members Absent: Rachel Rushworth-Hollander

2024 Council Members Present: Carolyn Lawhorn, Susan Hamilton

2024 Council Members Absent: Cristall Mount, Davin Henrick

1. Call to Order: Mike called the meeting to order at 12:20 PM.
2. Devotion: Sharon provided a devotion on Mary's Song.
3. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Michele and seconded by Sharon to approve the minutes of the November 2023 meeting with the following additional language: "First Meeting Update: Following discussion with Pastor Mark and Pastor Jonathan Hemphill from the Synod Office, he revised the Interim costs as follows:" Motion carried.
4. Congregational Meeting review and comments: Michele reported positive comments regarding the use of hymnals and Bibles already in the pews. A reduced number of bulletins would still be printed especially large print and some for visitors not used to juggling a hymnal and Bible. Jon reported a number of people volunteered to assist with changing the lighting fixtures.
5. Committee Reports: Provided in the meeting packet. Jon reported that the kitchen hot water heater was not working but has since been repaired temporarily. He would like to replace it with one that doesn't have a storage tank that has to keep the water hot all week. Replacement costs are between \$10,000 and \$32,000. The air handler that serves the Youth Room had a new control panel installed and is now working properly. Jon is meeting with Interfaith Power and Light. Interfaith Power and Light work with TVA and KUB and provide free energy audits. Jon will learn more about the program so that Messiah can benefit from an energy audit. Barb Dowdy has requested her contract be increased by \$200 per month.
6. Josh Moss: Josh requested verification of his Membership at Messiah. He is currently back in seminary after taking a leave to take care of family issues. He needs to be a member in a congregation in the Southeast Synod since that is where his candidacy is. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Angela confirming his membership. Motion carried.
7. Holy Name Pro-Cathedral: Mike met with Rev. Bodhi Der Parukanian of the church and gave her a tour of the building. Since they only have about 5 members, worshiping in the old narthex would work best. Their theology is liberal and similar to Messiah's. They would prefer worshiping early afternoons on Sundays. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Debbie to allow Holy Name Pro-Cathedral the use of Messiah at no cost. Motion carried.

8. Care Package for Interim Pastor Mark: Cristall was not available for a housing update since she is dealing with the recent death of her brother. The sign up sheet for furnishings is going well. Council discussed setting up his apartment with basic groceries and other items that may be identified upon further discussion with Pastor Mark. Personnel Team will take the lead on organizing the collection.
9. Staff Gifts: Staff gifts provided at year end has historically been based on percentage of salary. This method gives more funds to those making higher salaries and less funds to those making lower salaries. This method appears to be unfair since all staff are valued equally. A motion was made by Michele and seconded by Mike that staff gifts are to be divided equally between Pastor Laura, Kristin, Barb, Mary Sophia and Mary. Motion carried. It was noted that Pastor Susan was already gifted Messiah's Mac laptop.
10. Building Use Fees: Mike will continue working with Kristin on reviewing the fees of those currently using Messiah's space and developing a consistent fee structure that is closer to market value.

2023 Council Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM. 2024 Council members continued to meet to elect officers. Officers elected were Angela Kronau, President; Michele Wilson, Vice President; Carolyn Lawhorn, secretary.

Post Meeting Update: On December 18th Council approved by email, the use of Memorial Funds to purchase a laptop for Pastor Mark's use.