

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL
October 14, 2023

Members Present: Mike Driskill, Debbie Hampstead, Jon Driskill, Rachel Rushworth-Hollander, Angela Kronau, Becky Breeden, Pastor Susan Thisell, Jack Wilder, Michele Wilson

Members Absent: Sharon Sweeney

1. Call to Order: Mike called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.
2. Devotion: Rachel provided a devotion on laughter using a couple of video clips.
3. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Angela and seconded by Michele to approve the minutes of September 2023. Motion carried.
4. Pastor announced that she will retire effective December 1. She will use her remaining annual leave prior to December 1. A letter will go out Monday informing the congregation.
5. Correspondence and Building Use Requests: Approved Building Use Requests and thank you notes were included in the Council packet for our information, no action needed.
6. Committee Reports: Provided in the meeting packet. The following Team reports generated additional discussion.
 - a. Finance: Steve Hess was present and reviewed the Financial Report. There is 3.6 weeks of unrestricted cash left for the year. This means there will be little if any funds available to roll over to 2024. Between \$10,000 - \$12,000 has been available to roll into the following year the last two years. In order to cut expenses this year, the Finance Committee recommended (as a motion) to discontinue giving to Tyson house and World Hunger till the end of 2023, reducing Synod giving by 50%, not approving any continuing education for the rest of the year, reduce spending General Funds to only the costs that are essential for the rest of the year. Seconded by Mike. Oktoberfest generated \$1,300 for Tyson House. Council will try to make up Synod giving without using General Funds. Ideas to help with General Fund expenses included having a portion of any fundraiser go to the General Fund. This has been done in previous years. Motion passed.
 - b. Property: Mike and Jon will be meeting with their new team members to prepare a 2024 budget for the Finance Committee. Sprinkler Head testing is due. It was decided that the cost should be incurred this year rather than next year.
 - c. Personnel: Michele asked that the discussion regarding where to take complaints with staff or other members be tabled for today and be addressed next month.
7. Old Business:
 - a. New lights have arrived and need to be installed.
 - b. Nominating Committee has met and has begun recruiting candidates for Council members.

- c. Constitution review is on hold.
- d. Each month the Agenda will include discussion for cost cutting. Michele is working with Doug Mason and doing research on reducing costs for cleaning supplies and will look at other costs and if cheaper options are available.
- e. Sponsor a Day discussion will occur once the Stewardship Campaign has ended.
- f. Congregational Meeting will be held December 10th. Mike will let Kristin know.
- g. Boy Scout Troop - Mike provided additional information regarding Messiah sponsoring the Troop. He talked with Messiah's insurance company and an Executive with BSA to address our concerns regarding insurance, EIN use, space needs, etc. All questions have been resolved satisfactorily. Mike made a motion to approve the Troop's request to sponsor them with the caveat that Messiah reviews the final insurance requirements and the troops finances, seconded by Debbie. All approved

8. Pastor made a motion to adjourn at 1:45 PM, seconded by Mike. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Hampstead
Secretary