MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Sunday, March 20, 2022

ATTENDING: (In person) President Debbie HAMPSTEAD, VP Mike DRISKILL, Secretary Sharon SWEENEY, Becky BREEDEN, Tom COLE, Jon DRISKILL, Cristall MOUNT, Craig STEWART, Pastor Susan THISELL, Lori WEST; (Zoom) Michele WILSON; (Absent) Rachel RUSHWORTH-HOLLANDER, Andy WALLER

1. Call to Order: Debbie opened the meeting at 12:30 PM.
2. Devotions: Debbie provided a meditation based on material from the Wisconsin South Central Synod.
3. February Council minutes: Corrections will note Lori was absent and verify whether quarterly payments to the Southeastern Synod (SES) Mission Support program are up to date. Motion to approve minutes as corrected by Jon; seconded, vote carried.
4. Correspondence:
   1. Sharon Olson Fund contains $5,100 more than reported in the budget. We received a request from Central Baptist Church in Bearden for support of Remote Area Medical clinic, specifically to help feed up to 300 volunteer workers. Discussed using the Olson funds up to $4,000, and encouraging Messiah congregation to donate further. Motion thus by Craig; seconded, vote carried.
   2. Debbie will coordinate Olson fund use with Central Baptist.
   3. The SES “Partners in Celebration Program” for March 2022 is Epiphany Lutheran Church in Conyers, Georgia. Discussed supporting this effort with a $100 donation. Motion thus by Sharon; seconded, vote carried.
5. Finance Report: Steve Hess and Doug Mason were not able to attend the meeting. The financial information as provided in the Council packet was reviewed and discussed without formal action.
6. Commission/Committee reports:
   1. Property Committee, items discussed in addition to report:
      1. Jon noted one new bid for lawn service, $400 per mowing from “A Cut Above.” Last year’s cost was $170 per mowing. Additional bids are being sought and suggestions are welcome.
      2. The problems with the stove’s burners and temperature calibration are resolved.
      3. Clarification of sanctuary sound system: we now have 4 hearing-assist units. 2 additional units and a microphone are requested.
   2. Stewardship Committee: The event scheduled for April 30 – May 1 has been cancelled. Stewardship will work to recruit new members and re-focus their mission this year.
   3. Badenhop Fund: noted that names of beneficiaries were deleted from the steering committee minutes.
   4. Diversity and Justice: Pride Mass date is not yet determined.
   5. Oktoberfest: date set for October 1 from 4-8 p.m. Beer and wine will be served. The task force will meet May 24.
   6. Covid Task Force: notes recommending continued mask use in the sanctuary, but restrictions lifted elsewhere in the building, were discussed and accepted without formal action.
7. Council meeting minutes: Mike will help edit these going forward, based on Sharon’s in-meeting notes.
8. Blessing box: Cristall noted that Messiah had received an offer to construct a Blessing Box on our property; this is a container and dispenser for food, sanitary supplies, and similar necessities. Messiah’s responsibility will be to keep it filled and maintained. Move to accept this by Cristall, seconded, vote carried.
9. Church Constitution review:
   1. Confusing Constitution language regarding Commissions (Care, Serve, Worship, Disciple, Invite) and Committees will be coordinated between sections. Bishop’s helpful note to have all Commissions meet together periodically was discussed.
   2. Language regarding number of Council members was discussed.
10. Church Policies review:
    1. Alcohol Use, Storage, Benevolence, and Building Use policies have been updated in recent years. No further revisions to these are anticipated unless requested.
    2. Other plans for proceeding with policy reviews were discussed. Progress will be reviewed at Council meetings going forward.
11. Dogs in Worship: Presence of Jenny Adams’s dog Zuzu in worship, to help socialize her for the HABIT visitation program, was briefly discussed. Pastor Susan noted only one objection had been received, but we will continue to allow this.
12. Pastor’s Report: Synod assembly is the first weekend in June. Registration is open until mid-April. Voting members are needed. Pastor Susan will be attending. Tom Cole and Michele Wilson are interested in attending. If others are interested in attending, please let Council know. The budget to support attendees will probably need to be more than $600, as the assembly will be back “live” in Chattanooga this year and separate hotel rooms may be required.
13. Adjournment: Motion thus by Cristall at 2:00 PM; seconded, vote carried.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, April 10, 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Debbie will be absent, and Mike will preside.