**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

**MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

**SCHEDULED MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 20, 2022**

(Current members present) Becky BREEDEN, Tom COLE, Jon DRISKILL, VP Mike DRISKILL, President Debbie HAMPSTEAD, Cristall MOUNT, Pastor Susan THISELL, Andy WALLER, Lori WEST, Michele WILSON; (Absent) Rachel RUSHWORTH-HOLLANDER, Craig STEWART, Secretary Sharon SWEENEY; (New members present) Angela KRONAU, Jack WILDER

1. Call to Order: Debbie called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.
2. Devotion: Mike offered a devotion from Nadia Bolz Weber, centered on the theme of Psalm 148: that all God’s creations best praise him, simply by fully being what he intended for them.
3. Correspondence: reviewed, no action required.
4. Upcoming devotions and snacks: Michele will provide for the January meeting. The year’s list will be completed at that meeting.
5. Mechanical issues: Jon discussed issues he has recently reviewed. Fellowship hall’s HVAC unit has problems, and other significant repairs may be needed soon. TVA subsidies or a long-term payment plan may be needed to finance larger repairs. Action tabled pending Council review of a summary which Property will prepare.
6. Finance report: Income is behind for the year. Discussed issuing a congregation-wide letter, similar to last year, asking members to review and catch up on annual giving. Pastor Susan will work with Doug Mason on wording. Motion thus by Becky; seconded and approved.
7. New Members: Former member Dawn Liner has asked to return to Messiah. She will transfer from St. Paul’s in Maryville. Pastor Susan moved she be reinstated; seconded and approved. Note that Former member Rachel McCormick may also ask for reinstatement, and another couple recently attending regularly may join.
8. Connect Team: Michele asked that all Messiah groups which meet regularly, allow brief time for a Connect intro at their next meeting. Council members will pass this along to their liaison contacts.
9. DJTF report: Michele discussed upcoming activities. The annual YWCA Race Against Racism and other events are included in their recent comprehensive report. There is an immediate need to focus on the state legislature’s three “Slate of Hate” (anti-LGBTQIA+) legislative proposals, beginning committee debate on January 10. Messiah members should email legislators and take other appropriate actions.
10. Disability grant: The Synod has made money available for accessibility-related building improvements. A more accessible chancel area, improved sound system, and more welcoming entrances and signage for Messiah were discussed.
11. Staff reports: reviewed, no action required.
12. Periodic reports: We need to improve the current process, so that Council packet can be ready within the week of the next meeting. We proposed: reports to Kristin by the preceding Tuesday; Council liaisons send reminders Tuesday the previous week; meeting notes to highlight any Council action needed and list all persons attending (or note if no meeting since the previous report).
13. Pastor’s housing allowance: Lori moved this be continued; seconded and approved.
14. Annual meeting Part 2: February 12. Annual reports must be submitted in a timely manner.
15. 2022 time-expired Council members: Tom Cole, Cristall Mount, Craig Stewart, Lori West, and Andy Waller were thanked for their service, and left the meeting at this point.
16. 2023 Council members: Selected officers for the upcoming year. PRESIDENT Mike Driskill; VICE PRESIDENT Angela Kronau; SECRETARY Debbie HAMPSTEAD.
17. Council Retreat: Pastor Susan and Council officers will plan details. Prefer to have the retreat outside of the church building.
18. Adjournment: Motion by Pastor Susan; seconded and passed.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, January 15, 12:30 PM; in Messiah’s Fellowship Hall.