MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Sunday, April 10, 2022

ATTENDING: (In person), VP Mike DRISKILL, Secretary Sharon SWEENEY, Becky BREEDEN, Tom COLE, Jon DRISKILL, Cristall MOUNT, Rachel RUSHWORTH-HOLLANDER, Pastor Susan THISELL, Lori WEST, Michele WILSON; (Zoom) none; (Absent) President Debbie HAMPSTEAD, Craig STEWART, Andy WALLER

1. Call to Order. Mike opened the meeting at 12:50 PM.
2. Devotions.
   1. Becky read Isaiah 53 and an accompanying prayer as a meditation. *(Many thanks to Becky, for an excellent lunch; and same to Debbie for March!)*
3. March Council minutes. Corrections: Rachel was absent; Craig was present; Cristall’s name misspelled; other typographical errors. Motion to approve as corrected by Cristall; seconded, vote carried.
4. Correspondence.
   1. Items included in the meeting packet reviewed and discussed. No action items noted.
   2. An expanded schedule for the Teach Group was reviewed and discussed. No action required.
5. Finance Report.
   1. 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.
   2. Current finance highlights:
      1. March donations and expenditures roughly even; both slightly higher than budget plan.
      2. Year-to-date donations about $9300 behind plan; YTD expenses about $12,000 ahead of plan.
      3. March expenses included about $2000 for maintenance and repair items, offset by some staff salary savings. Benevolence contributions were about $1800. Annual Badenhop funds were received and exceeded budget by about $20,000.
      4. Overall picture is good and about $41,000 cash is on hand.
   3. Discussed need to keep Care Cuts egg purchase fund, and other Care Cuts donations, as separate line items. *(Post-meeting note: Michele followed up with Doug Mason to arrange this.)*
6. Commission/Committee reports:
   1. Reports as submitted for the meeting packet were briefly reviewed and discussed. No action items were required.
   2. Property Committee additional item; a new bid for lawn service was noted, at $175 per mowing. *(Post-meeting note: this bidder has been selected and will begin work as soon as weather allows.)*
7. Covid Protocol update. Request by members to reduce mask requirements for services was received and evaluated by the Covid Task Force. Discussed accepting the following Task Force recommendations, effective Easter Sunday, April 17. Motion thus by Tom; seconded, vote carried. (Note: Michele has designed appropriate signs to replace the current ones.)
   1. *Masks are “encouraged, but optional” for services in the sanctuary.*
   2. *Basic safety precautions are still observed, including: distancing when seated or queuing; sanitizing hands; isolating after symptoms or a positive Covid test; and quarantining after suspected exposure.*
   3. *Masks remain optional for all other functions in the building, including the Sunday fellowship time.*
8. Computer Systems Tech Support Update.
   1. Michele and Kristin solicited offers from four vendors: Avona Technologies, Centraworks Logistics, 865IT, and Computer Networking Services.
   2. Avona presented a very satisfactory proposal, with the lowest cost of $191 per month. Motion to proceed with contract by Michele; seconded, vote carried.
9. Music Director search update. Two applications have been received. Application deadline is May 20.
10. Synod Assembly.
    1. Discussed estimated maximum expenditure of $1800 for registration, hotel, and a daily meal together for our attendees. Motion to approve up to an additional $1160 ($640 previously approved for registration) by Pastor Susan; seconded, vote carried.
    2. Susan Hamilton and Michele Wilson have agreed to represent Messiah as voting members. Motion to approve by Mike; seconded, vote carried.
11. Church Constitution review. Mike noted a “first cut” is complete, marked up directly on a Word copy of the Constitution. It is in Council’s Google Drive folder “CONSTITUTION REVS DRAFT." Steve Plonk is reviewing the current version.
12. Church Policies review. No work on this since our last meeting. Will continue to update progress in future meetings.
13. Council Meeting Notes.
    1. Discussed not having scheduled Council meetings in June or July (NOTE: Pastor or President will call “live” or Zoom meetings as issues require; “normal” business will continue via email). Motion thus by Michele; seconded, vote carried.
    2. The snacks and devotions work sheet for the year was completed during this meeting. It is on Council’s Google Drive.
    3. New meeting minutes format was discussed and found to be acceptable.
14. Pastor’s Report. Reviewed and discussed. No action items noted.
15. Adjournment: Motion thus by Tom at 1:50 PM; seconded, vote carried. Pastor Susan closed with a prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, May 15, 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Snacks and devotions by Lori.