

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL
May 21, 2023

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

Members Absent: Jack Wilder, Sharon Sweeney

1. Call to Order: Mike called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.
2. Devotion: Mike provided a devotion based on the book "Psalms for Praying" and excerpts from Psalm 104.
3. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Angela and seconded by Rachel to approve the minutes of April 23, 2023. Motion carried.
4. Correspondence: Thank you notes were included in the Council packet for our information, no action needed.
5. Committee Reports: Provided in the meeting packet. The following Team reports generated additional discussion.
 - a. Disciple Team requested volunteer job descriptions for Children's Sunday School Coordinator and Adult Learning Hour Coordinator, included in the Council packet, be approved. A motion was made by Rachel, seconded by Pastor. Motion carried.
 - b. Property/Finance: Jon reported that the city has scheduled work on the easement to begin on June 19. Work will include adding a bike lane. An underground culvert will replace the drainage ditch along Kingston Pike. A concrete pad will be added at the bus stop. The main sign will not be impacted but the banner placement will need to be moved. Photos need to be taken of the area and main sign before work begins. Pastor asked if KUB will repair the broken arm on the cross on the main sign that was broken three years ago. Jon replied that it happened 3 years ago and that KUB uses third party contractors so it is not possible to determine now who actually broke the arm.
 - c. Fellowship/Stewardship: Rachel provided additional information regarding last meeting's discussion concerning a purchasing process that didn't require going to church to pick up a credit card. Venmo isn't a good option. Vanco has an app available, also an option called text to give but that option costs \$10/month. Apple Pay and Android Pay sound like good options. Other options that Debbie will request Finance to explore is setting up an Amazon account and the possibility of having the bank set up a digital credit card. Michele and Rachel will work on a QR code that can be placed in the bulletin and in the pews that goes directly to our current on line giving option through Vanco. Debbie to ask Finance to explore Apple Pay and Android Pay with Davin Henrik who works in that field. Stewardship will have someone in the Narthex at least once a month to help people set up on line giving.

- d. Worship: Worship has recommended that Sunday morning worship time permanently remain at 9:30 AM. A motion was made by Michele and seconded by Angela to approve Worship Team's request. 1 abstention, motion carried.

Worship Team requested \$3,433 of memorial funds be transferred to the Pollyanna Creekmore music fund to offset partial cost of the new piano. Pastor motioned to approve the request, seconded by Michele. Motion carried.

- e. Personnel: A recommended change to the Administrative Assistant's job description was tabled last meeting to allow Pastor time to discuss the further revised wording with Kristin. Pastor requested this be tabled again until she can meet with Kristin.
6. Constitution Review: Pastor, Steve Plonk, and Mike met last week and compared the draft revised Constitution with Synod's model constitution. They need to meet one more time to finalize the draft for review.
 7. New Member Involvement: A brainstorming discussion for ideas of how to get new people involved in the ministry teams resulted in several ideas. No one option will work for everyone. Rachel shared that when she joined Messiah she was told by a previous Pastor that she was making a commitment to attend worship which fed her and that she should determine how she can give back to the church outside of attending. It was also suggested that many of the Ministry Team leads should have a term limit to encourage succession. Ideas for inclusion:
 - a. Include new members in dinner groups.
 - b. Train sponsors on how to determine new member interest and how to integrate them into ministry teams aligned with their interests.
 - c. Develop a list of serving options with a 3 sentence description of the ministry team to be used during new member orientation.
 - d. Engage new members in discussion during coffee hour (developing relationships).
 - e. Developing job descriptions for each ministry team or leadership opportunity so that individuals may have a better understanding of what is expected.

Michele will share these ideas with Kate Spears, Chair of Invite.

8. Summer Meeting: Council will not have a June meeting. July meeting will be as scheduled with Debbie Hampstead providing devotions and lunch.
9. Adjournment: A motion was made by Angela and seconded by Jon to adjourn at 1:25 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Hampstead
Secretary