

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL
March 19, 2023
Fellowship Hall

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

Member Absent: Debbie Hampstead

1. Call to Order: Mike called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM while lunch was eaten.
2. Devotion: Michele provided a devotion based on the Bible verse Proverbs 3:5-6 which focused on trusting in the Lord with all our hearts.
3. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Pastor Susan Thisell and seconded by Michele Wilson to approve the minutes of February 18, 2023. All approved.
4. Committee Reports: Provided in the meeting packet, no Council action needed.
 - a. Corrections: The following corrections will be made to these ministry team minutes:
 - i. Reports from the Fellowship Committee and Connect Team were turned in, before the 'deadline', but not included in the Council packet.
 - ii. Diversity & Justice: Add the "RJ preached on Reconciling in Christ Sunday".
 - iii. Invite: Rewrite so that the minutes reflect that Dawn Liner is a member of Messiah and therefore won't need to be reinstated once she decides to come back. She, and Rachel McCormick (for that matter) will just re-activate their current memberships. Correct the spelling of Kelly Alsop to Kelly Alsup.
 - b. Property update- All of the easement funds have been spent. We had 2 heat pumps repaired, elevator repairs and the lights in the Fellowship Hall have been updated. Council will continue to pray and deliberate ways to save money for our building. Michele will write some publicity to share with the congregation. It has been 2 years since a targeted ask has taken place at MELC.
 - c. Stewardship – Becky Breeden has agreed to serve as the council liaison for Stewardship.
 - d. Columbarium [STILL] needs to be added to the reporting groups.
 - e. Archive Committee has been added to the list of special projects. Members include Debbie Hampstead, Dinah Brock and Anne Tinker. They have been trained. The goals are to review all paper documents; digitize (scan) important documents and make sure all Messiah documents are in order.

Angela moved and Pastor Susan seconded to accept the packet as approve. Everyone voted yes.
5. Treasurer Question: Pastor Susan asked if the constitution stated that the Treasurer must attend each monthly meeting. Angela Kronau found in the Constitution that a monthly Treasurer's report to Council is required, but attendance at the monthly meetings is not required.

6. Synod Assembly 2023: Angela Kronau and Susan Hamilton will serve as our church voting members. Mike will ask Kristin to register them and secure their hotel room. Early bird registration deadline is March 31, Synod Assembly is June 2nd, 3rd, 4th.
7. Minutes Form: Mike asked council members to work with their council liaisons to be sure that they are recording the most important information (Date/Time, Who Attended; Any Council Action Needed; Any Building Use issues) Council liaisons were asked to notify their minute takers to submit the minutes within 1 (one) week of the date the meeting was held. The drop-dead deadline is no later than the Thursday, prior to the Executive Council meeting. Mike will ask Kristin to put the dates on the church calendar. Mike provided this template for Council to share with liaisons:

Dear (group leader),

Just a friendly reminder to expedite church record keeping:

1. ***Please get meeting minutes to your group members and Kristin as soon as possible after the meeting.***
2. ***The latest date for submitting reports is the Thursday which falls 10 days before the Council meeting (third Sunday of the month).***
3. ***The attached form is available. Even if you don't fill it out, it's a great meeting checklist.***
4. ***Any report should include as a minimum:***
 - a. ***Name of your group***
 - b. ***Date of the meeting***
 - c. ***Names of all attendees***
 - d. ***Notes on major decisions made***
 - e. ***Any item requiring Council action due to cost, staff demands, or use of the building***

Thank you!
(Liaison name)

8. Constitution Revisions: Our Constitution Committee includes: Mike Driskill, Pastor Susan Thisell, and Steve Plonk. The constitution revision draft is in the shared Google drive. Mike continues to work on the file. It has a code key for us to follow. Most changes are minor, to clarify wording. The most sizeable change is the procedure for churches to ask to leave the ELCA. Article 20 (in the model) has ways for multiple congregations to work as one. When one pastor serves multiple churches, it is called a parish. The following items are included in our Constitution:

- a. Required Provisions
- b. Recommended Provisions
- c. Bylaws
- d. Continuing Recommendations

Once the revisions are completed, the Constitution will go to the synod level for approval. Mike asks that if you review the constitution online, please don't make changes to the document. Instead, please email changes to Mike Driskill.

9. April meeting: Pastor Susan, Mike and Michele will be absent for the April 16th council meeting. Michele moved that the April 16th meeting be moved to April 23rd. Angela seconded and after discussion, it was approved. REMINDER: Sharon, Debbie, Michele and Angela will take care of the April lunch. Sharon will lead the devotion. June and July have not been assigned. Council will decide at the May meeting if Council will meet in June and July.
10. Travel: Mike Driskill will be traveling quite a bit over the next month. Please keep them in your prayers. While Mike is away, Angela, serving as Vice President of Council, is here to help us.
11. Justice Knox: Michele reminded Council of Justice Knox's new involvement in Justice Knox. She encouraged Council members to attend the Nehemiah Action and gave out tickets to Council Members to share with friends and fellow church members.
12. Adjourned: Angela moved that we adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Becky Breeden . The meeting ended at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Wilson
for Debbie Hampstead, Secretary