**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

**MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

**SCHEDULED MEETING**

Sunday, August 21, 2022

ATTENDING: Becky BREEDEN, Tom COLE, Jon DRISKILL, VP Mike DRISKILL, President Debbie HAMPSTEAD, Cristall MOUNT, Rachel RUSHWORTH-HOLLANDER, Craig STEWART Andy WALLER, Lori WEST, Michele WILSON. (Ex-Officio) Pastor Dave BRADFORD. (Via Zoom) none. (Absent) Secretary Sharon SWEENEY. (On Leave) Pastor Susan THISELL.

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES:

1. Call to Order. Debbie opened the meeting at 11:30 AM.
2. Meal and Devotions. Tom led with a prayer prior to providing an excellent lunch. He then led a devotion from Psalm 103, and an essay from *I Praise You O God*, by Michael Youssef.
3. Approval of Minutes. Cristall moved that minutes from the May scheduled meeting and the July called meeting be approved. Motion seconded and approved.
4. Henrik family membership. Debbie noted that Council had not met the constitutional requirement to approve the Hendrik’s application, prior to their formally joining Messiah. No retrospective action is required, but Council enthusiastically affirmed this action.
5. Correspondence.
   1. Debbie reviewed “Update” and “Thank you” items in the meeting packet.
   2. Debbie reviewed “Request” items in the meeting packet.
      1. Michelle moved that Messiah provide $100 to Grovetown Episcopal-Lutheran Mission, as part of the ELCA Partners in Celebration outreach. Motion seconded and approved.
      2. Rachel moved that Messiah provide $250 to Reconciling Works, in support of Pride activities for LGBTQIA+ communities, per letter in the meeting packet. Motion seconded and approved.
6. Committee Reports.
   1. Debbie reviewed committee reports in the meeting packet.
   2. Disciple: Michele presented the possibility of staffing the church nursery during Sunday services, to supplement the "Prayground’ (staffing changes require Council approval). This was discussed at length, but no action taken. Council will investigate whether such a possible future staff member, for the nursery or other responsibilities for older youth, might be financially supported by the Badenhop Fund. Disciple will discuss further and re-present to Council if appropriate.
   3. Worship: Messiah may return to “monthly” or “seasonal” bulletin printing, with smaller weekly inserts. This conserves paper but was suspended during Covid-19. No Council action required.
   4. Invite: The nearby Holiday Inn Express on Papermill Road is being rented by UT for student housing. Messiah will investigate providing “Welcome bags,” church promotional materials, rides to Messiah services, etc. (*post-meeting note: Council approved via email, a request from Invite to fund and begin work on this initiative*).
   5. Oktoberfest: Mike passed around the sign-up sheet so that Council members can participate in the day and asked that each Council member distribute Oktoberfest’s PDF poster to at least ten other persons (*post-meeting note: poster emailed to all on Monday, August 22*).
7. No Firearms at Oktoberfest. Council confirmed support for our previous resolution to ban firearms at this event.
8. Financial Report. Monthly reports in the meeting packet for May, June, and July were briefly reviewed. Giving is behind for the year, but the deficit from planned amounts is improving, and current cash reserves are adequate.
9. ELCA Synod Assembly Report. Michele provided an excellent detailed review and discussion of this summer’s Assembly in Chattanooga. This is attached.
10. Nominating Committee. This year’s committee will include Craig Stewart and Lori West, who are completing their third year on Council (Tom Cole and Andy Waller are completing interim terms but are eligible to run for full terms).
11. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM with The Lord’s Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, September 18, in the Fellowship Hall. Time TBA.

ATTACHMENT: 2022 ELCA SES Synod Assembly Report