

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL
July 16, 2023

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

Members Absent: Michele Wilson

Note: Council did not meet in June.

1. Call to Order: Mike called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM.
2. Devotion: Debbie provided a devotion from “Our Daily Bread” titled Love Your Neighbor.
3. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Angela and seconded by Sharon to approve the minutes of May 2023. Motion carried.
4. Previously Approved by email:
 - a. The magician’s building use was approved by email on June 22.
 - b. Oktoberfest date of October 7 (4PM - 8PM), profit to go to Tyson House, and prohibition of guns was approved by email on July 7.
5. Correspondence: Thank you notes were included in the Council packet for our information, no action needed.
6. Committee Reports: Provided in the meeting packet. The following Team reports generated additional discussion.
 - a. Finance: Pastor reported that Synod has reimbursed the church for two nights of hotel expenses. Synod Assembly over expenditure is not as much as it appears. Reimbursement will appear on next month’s finance report.
 - b. Worship Team: Pastor noted that Illy Wood is the interim Chair and needs to be replaced with a permanent Chair. Lori West should be thanked for taking on the responsibility of coordinating the worship assistant schedule. Debbie will send a card.
 - c. Property/Finance: Mike has discussed expanding the Property Committee and scope of responsibilities with Jon. Additional members with legal, finance, landscaping, interior design, and architectural expertise are needed. Mike will reach out to recruit additional members. The large amount of work needed to be done was discussed. It was suggested that High School guidance counselors be contacted to see if any students need service hours. Boy Scout Eagle projects and Girl Scout Gold projects were also mentioned as potential workers.
 - d. Stewardship: The QR code for donations seems to be working well. Thank you to Rachel and Michele for putting the codes on the pews. Rachel suggested that the bulletin include a line adding the QR code as another option for giving. She will speak with Kristin.

- e. BAM: Don Lawhorn is replacing Doug Mason as leader. Debbie will send a card of thanks to Doug. A motion was made by Pastor and seconded by Angela to award Doug with the Luther Rose. Mike will find out which Sunday is best for the presentation.
 - f. Invite: Pastor reviewed each member on the "Follow up with other members before they become lost sheep" list and provided an update.
7. Constitution Review: Mike reported that the team has met and made progress. More work still needs to be done.
 8. Synod Assembly: Michele was complemented on her Synod Assembly Report. The report needs to be shared with the congregation. Michele will be asked to put it on the website.

Synod approved a Resolution, Caring for our Trans Community, submitted by The Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (SESLYO). See July Council packet for complete resolution. SESLYO requests that all congregations to use preferred pronouns, to accommodate all LGBTQIA+ individuals with safe housing for events, and to reach out to the LGBTQIA+ community. After discussion, Pastor offered to let Kristin know that, if requested, she should add preferred pronouns to Messiah name tags.
 9. 70th Anniversary Planning: The anniversary is December 2024. Mike will ask Larry Moeller to help, since Larry has shared several ideas on a celebration.
 10. Ministry Team Volunteer Coordination meeting: A meeting of the chairs of the ministry teams to assess team needs, future events, coordination of activities was discussed. Holding the meeting during usual Sunday School hour during the summer was discussed. Mike will set up the meeting.
 11. Tuesday Morning Prayer Group: Mike encouraged others to participate in this Zoom group.
 12. Nominating Committee: After some discussion, a motion was made by Angela and seconded by Rachel that the Nominating Committee be the outgoing Council members, Debbie Hampstead, Sharon Sweeney, Rachel Rushworth-Hollander, and Mike Driskill. Motion carried. Rachel volunteered to share her positive experience on Council during a worship service to encourage others to serve.
 13. Wedding Request: An Episcopal Priest (friend of Larry Warren) would like to conduct the wedding of his nephew at Messiah on December 30. Their church is undergoing renovations and isn't available. The Wedding Policy, approved in 2014, is terribly out of date. After some discussion, a motion was made by Pastor and seconded by Mike to dispense with the Policy and allow Pastor to explore the request and allow the wedding to take place if Pastor is comfortable with the arrangements. Motion carried.
 14. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned, with prayer led by Pastor, at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Hampstead
Secretary