



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Sunday, January 21, 2024

Council members present: Angela Kronau, Michele Wilson, Carolyn Lawhorn, Cristall Mount, Jonathan Driskill, Davin Henrik, Becky Breeden, Jack Wilder, Susan Hamilton, Pastor Mark, Steve Hess

Council members absent:

Guests present:

Meeting held: In Person via Zoom

AGENDA:

1. **Call to Order:** Angela called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.
2. **Opening Devotion:** Michele (using the Red Hymnbook) referenced "I want to Walk as a Child of the Light" in her presentation
3. **Approval of December minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Cristall, seconded by Davin and passed unanimously by all in attendance.
4. **Finance Update:** Steve Hess presented the year-end budget numbers. The December 2023 income was ~\$35,000, which was just a bump of \$4,000 as compared to a typical \$10,000 bump for year-end giving. YTD total income was ~\$367,000, which is down ~ Expenses, though, were also down ~\$3,000 under expected expenses, even though we have used up the easement fund awarded to the church several years ago. Steve suggests that a way to help with 2024 anticipated expenses is to use \$12,000 (as a \$1,000 per month deposit) from the unrestricted cash account, which is now at \$37,000. This will reduce the unrestricted cash account funds to \$25,000 by the end of year 2024. Becky Breeden raised the question, referencing the building fund contributions, as to what account those contributions are being credited to. She assumes that they are going to the Building Maintenance Fund. Jon said we need to be careful with this, since capital improvements will be more costly and are most likely needed sooner, rather than later. Becky thought we already had a Capital Improvement Fund and suggests that Sponsor-A-Day contributions go to the Capital Improvement Fund. Michele clarified that the Sponsor-A-Day contributions have already been designated for the Building Maintenance Fund. Jon would like to see a separate Capital Improvement Fund. Davin asked how council approves budget requests. Steve said that budget requests are based on the purchase order submitted to him, i.e. if Jon needs HVAC equipment, he must get approval from the council and the finance committee. Steve said the Building Maintenance Fund has \$18,000 currently for use during 2024.

It was noted that \$627 given to the Justice Knox Fund came from the year-end Advent contributions. Messiah had earlier sent a \$500 fee to Justice Knox.

5. **Monthly reports:** No reports presented
6. **Correspondence, updates, building use requests, etc.:** Kristin has been stuck at home for the past week, so will send these out to us Lrwe.

Michele will send out a link to all of us so that we can view previous council documents on google drive.

7. Council liaison assignments:

2024 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL				
Name	Term Ends	Title/Liaison	Phone Number	Email
Becky Breeden	2024	BADENHOP / STEWARDSHIP	865-684-8824	bbreeden_37807@yahoo.com
Pastor Mark Cerniglia	TBD		803-586-0818	pastormark@messiahknoxville.org
Jon Driskill	2024	WORSHIP	865-604-2031	jdriskill@ameresco.com
Susan Hamilton	2026	CARE/CONNECT	865-898-3443	susanhami@gmail.com
Davin Henrik	2026	PERSONNEL/INVITE	701-412-4118	henrik.davin@gmail.com
Steve Hess	Appointed		865-740-8628	shess@emerachem.com
Angela Kronau	2025	POLICY	865-216-5135	arkronau@yahoo.com
Carolyn Lawhorn	2026	BAM	865-719-1473	clawh53@gmail.com
Cristall Mount	2026	FELLOWSHIP/WELCA	865-300-7490	cristallmount@gmail.com
Jon Toth	Appointed		865-356-6532	jwckt621@aol.com
Jack Wilder	2025	SERVE / D&J	423-465-5800	jwilder482@yahoo.com
Michele Wilson	2024	PROPERTY/DISCIPLE	865-443-2277	vollady4@aol.com

- 8. Small Group Meetings | Call Committee Nominations:** Pastor Mark was asked by Angela to describe his plans for starting the process we will use for calling Messiah’s next pastor. He first requested approval from the council to transfer his church membership from his current Johnson City church to Messiah Lutheran. He has already received approval for this move from the Bishop, though he will not have any voting privileges when Messiah votes on approving the new pastor. The council approved this request unanimously.

Pastor Mark likes small groups to provide information to as many church members as possible. He is more comfortable with small groups and feels that each member will have a better chance to participate in the process. Besides educating the members on the pastor search process, he will also use the meetings to gather information that will be needed for the Ministry Site Profile inventory. This document is used throughout the search process, so must be completed well. He did say that some groups are already established, such as OWLS and BAM. He also requested that one council member attend each meeting to take notes. He will post a schedule soon for each church member to have a chance to sign up when convenient for them (he will schedule meetings during the day, as well as some evening meetings so everyone can attend when they would like). After all meetings have been held, he will begin searching for the Call Committee volunteers.

- 9. Lenten Offering to Care Cuts of Knoxville – Recommendation from Serve Committee:** Cristall offered some background on the Care Cuts of Knoxville mission. . Messiah Lutheran Church donates 20 dozen boiled eggs a month to Care Cuts and the children of the church sponsored a “Birthday Party for Jesus” event to help gather basic clothing needs for those persons who turn to Care Cuts for help.

A motion was made by Michele that our Lenten Offering this year be contributed to Care Cuts, Jon seconded the motion and council approved the motion unanimously.

- 10. 70th Anniversary task force update:** Angela called for an update on Larry Moeller’s plans for Messiah’s 2024 70th Anniversary celebration. Michele and Angela contacted Larry and though he will continue to write material for the Ace Theater productions, as needed, he does not want to chair or recruit volunteers for the Celebration committee. He did suggest that the committee be made up of members of Messiah

who know the church's history and also include members who are event planners. He would like to find a way for the 70th anniversary celebration to be a catapult for re-engaging church members into active participation in the church.

11. "Sponsor A Day" special stewardship campaign:

12. "Messiah Forward" task force update: Council members were reminded to send Mike Driskill any comments or suggestions that might help in developing the direction of this project. (Note: the executive committee, meeting on February 16, was given a short update on the direction of the task force and Pastor Mark requested that he have the chance to look at the list of goals that Mike Driskill referenced to committee members).

13. Verify monthly Council meeting date, time, location: Next month's Council meeting is verified.

Michele reminded the Council of the upcoming dates for Pastor Mark's Installation Service—February 3 (the empanada workshop) and February 4 (the installation service and reception beginning at 2:00). She also asked Council to consider for our March 23 God's Heart, Our Hands event that we add a St. Patty's Day potato bar to finish the days work together.

14. Adjourn with prayer: Angela closed the meeting with prayer. Jack moved to adjourn and Davin seconded.

Next Meeting: *Sunday, February 18, 12:30, Fellowship Hall*

Minutes submitted by: Carolyn Lawhorn