

Messiah Lutheran Church ELCA/ Council Meeting

Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 11:00 am | Conference Room, Messiah

Members present: Judy Mennel, Rick Christian, Angela Kronau, Jack Wilder,
Martha MacCabe, Carolyn Lawhorn, Mary Ellen Whitson,
Pastor Mark Cerniglia

Members absent: Cristall Mount

LEADERSHIP TEAM				
Reporting Group	Leader	Council Liaison	Action	Notes
MINISTRY TEAMS				
Care	Illy Wood	Susan Hamilton		
Disciple	Mary Williamson	Carolyn Lawhorn		
Invite	Kate Spears	Mary Ellen Whitson		
Serve	Connie Cole	Jack Wilder		
Worship	Jane Mason	Martha MacCabe		
SUPPORT TEAMS				
Badenhop	Mary Ellen Whitson	Rick Christian	X	Sound system/streaming
Connect	Michele Wilson	Susan Hamilton		
Finance	Steve Hess	Judy Mennel		
Personnel	Connie Cole	Rick Christian		
Property	Jon Driskill	Cristall Mount	X	Blessing Box discussion
SPECIAL GROUPS				
BAM (Disciple)	No Leader	Carolyn Lawhorn		
DJC (Serve)	L. Wilder, M. Driskill	Jack Wilder		
Fellowship (Invite)	C. Lawhorn, J. Mennel	Cristall Mount		
Policy (Support)	Mike Driskill	Angela Mount		
Stewardship (Finance)	Michele Wilson	Martha MacCabe		
WELCA (Disciple)	Anne Tinker	Cristall Mount		
STAFF				
Parish Nurse	Mary Sophia Hawks	n/a		
Interim Senior Pastor	Pastor Mark Cerniglia	n/a		
Director of Music	Mary Phillips	n/a		

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Angela | Meal & Opening Devotion by Martha MacCabe

Angela K. called the meeting to order at 11:10. Martha M. led our devotions using several daily devotions that she receives from the St. John the Evangelical group, an organization of monks. These thoughts focused on our relationship with God in terms of our willingness to "Ask". Do we have the Courage and Trust to open ourselves to God and then receive His Answer?

2. Approval of May Minutes

Jack W. moved to approve the May Minutes, Judy M. seconded the motion. It was noted that the Leadership Team table included in the Minutes needs updating, which will be taken care of by Carolyn L. The Minutes were then approved by Council unanimously.

3. Finance Update - Steve Hess

Steve Hess was absent from the meeting, but sent, via email, his financial update for the month of May.

2025 Income and Spending plan **\$29,648** per month

May General Fund Income was **\$950 below** plan. (3%)

- General Fund income is **\$5,793 below** plan YTD (4%)
- General Fund Income is **\$3,819 (3%) below** last year at this same time.

May General Fund Expenses were \$3,375 below Plan.

- General Fund Expenses are \$12,780 below plan YTD.
- General Fund Expenses are \$15,206 below last year at this same time.

May General Fund Unrestricted Cash reserves increased to \$40,491

- This is 5.9 weeks' worth of cash.
- At this level of unrestricted cash, I recommend General Fund spending at plan.
- I don't recommend extra spending until we decide on the pastor pay package.

Other May items to note:

- We have 7K in Tree & Ditch work to complete
- We have Mold Remediation & Moisture issues to address in the Lower Level Ed Wing
- We Have Exterior Painting to complete
- We have Kitchen repairs to complete
- The 2025 budget has been modified to include a Part Time Admin
 - Spending was reduced for Property
- We received our 2025 Creekmore music fund distribution \$3,567
- We are moving forward with our transition to the new IT support program provider

4. Correspondence, updates, building use requests, etc.

a. Angela K. had updates on the BUR submitted by Bonnie Pederson on behalf of the Sons of Norway regarding their use of the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025. After Bonnie requested lower fees (since she is a member of the group who is also a member of Messiah), Angela approved a \$50 fee for the hours requested and will sign the BUR when it has been updated to reflect that fee.

b. Martha M. told Council that the Guatemala group would like to hold their annual

reunion at Messiah this year (September 10, 2025). She has asked Carrie to mark that date in the church calendar and will submit the completed BUR when details are worked out.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Clarify how to proceed with improving the function of the sanctuary sound system & streaming services.** To provide some hands-on support for the tech team at Messiah, a plan to hire a tech intern for the months of September-December of 2025 has been proposed. The plan includes finding a student who might have a desire to work for those months with the team. Carolyn L. made a motion to request funds from the Badenhop Fund to help cover the cost of the intern for the months of September-December 2025. Judy M. seconded the motion and Council approved the motion unanimously. Once a reasonable pay schedule is identified, Mary Ellen W. will be informed of the appropriate pay schedule to present to the Badenhop committee.
- b. Blessing Box discussion (page 16).** Carolyn L. shared the proposal she received from the Knoxville Police Department to begin performing Property Watch services for Messiah. KPD, once notified, will provide this service for two weeks per request, as they are able to. Usually between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. They cannot commit to nightly drive-throughs but send their officers out when there are no imminent issues that they must attend to. We can make these requests every two weeks for as long as we need to. Though we are not required to post signage that the police have been asked to patrol our property, Pastor Mark did suggest that "No Trespassing" signs be posted on the playground fence at both entrances, since there have been instances of strangers using that area to camp (and the police will be told that persons, not authorized, have been found using the playground area as well as the entrances to the church building). Rick C. offered to purchase and hang the signs in the coming week. There was discussion about the need to repair the Blessing Box and secure/replace the garbage can, so Pastor Mark will contact BAM to help with that job. Angela K. suggested designing a monthly schedule with members from the SERVE Committee to restock and check on the Blessing Box each Sunday. That would probably help us stay on top of any damage that might occur again, before it gets too severe, as was the case captured in the photo on pg. 16.

6. Other Business

- a. Review of MSP updates (pages 20-32)** After reviewing the corrections/additions that Council members offered on the MSP, Jack W. made a motion to accept the revised MSP, Mary Ellen W. seconded the motion and Council passed the motion unanimously. Angela K. will notify Michele W. about the corrections/additions so that she can complete the revised MSP for use by the Call Committee as they continue

their search for a Pastor. The revised MSP will be sent via email by Angela for a final email vote on the changes before it is used by the Call Committee.

- b. Review of Inactive Members List.** After a review of the inactive members list produced earlier this year, Council agreed that those who are known to have moved to other towns/states be notified, via letter, to help us determine if they are currently involved with a church in their new location. Pastor Mark will create a letter to help with this project.

- 7. Adjourn with prayer.** Mary Ellen W. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Martha M. seconded that motion and Council unanimously voted in favor of the motion. Council was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Submitted by: Carolyn Lawhorn

Date submitted: June 22, 2025

***NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Sunday, July 20, 2025 at 11 am,
Devotion & Meal: Carolyn Lawhorn***

***UPCOMING DATES: Council Reports Due to Carrie: July 9, 2025
Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, July 15 at 6:30 pm via Zoom***