

**Messiah Lutheran Church | ELCA  
Congregational Council Meeting**

**12:15 PM, Sunday, February 18, 2024 | Messiah Fellowship Hall**

**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Reporting Group	Leader	Council Liaison	Action?	Notes
<b>MINISTRY TEAMS</b>				
Care	Illy Wood	Susan Hamilton		
Disciple	Angela Kronau	Michele Wilson		
Invite	Kate Spears	Davin Henrik		
Serve	Connie Cole	Jack Wilder		
Worship	Jane Mason	Jon Driskill		
<b>SUPPORT TEAMS</b>				
Badenhop	Mary Ellen Whitson	Becky Breeden		
Connect	Michele Wilson	Susan Hamilton		
Finance	Steve Hess	Steve Hess		
Personnel	Michele Wilson	Davin Henrik		
Property	Jon Driskill	Michele Wilson	<b>x</b>	
<b>SPECIAL GROUPS</b>				
BAM ( <i>Disciple</i> )	Don Lawhorn	Carolyn Lawhorn		
DJC ( <i>Serve</i> )	L. Wilder, M. Driskill	Jack Wilder		
Fellowship ( <i>Invite</i> )	C. Lawhorn, J. Mennel	Cristall Mount		
Policy ( <i>Support</i> )	Mike Driskill	Angela Kronau		
Stewardship ( <i>Finance</i> )	Michele Wilson	Becky Breeden	<b>x</b>	
WELCA ( <i>Disciple</i> )	Anne Tinker	Cristall Mount		
<b>STAFF</b>				
Parish Nurse	Mary Sophia Hawks	n/a		
Interim Senior Pastor	Pastor Mark Cerniglia	n/a		
Youth Minister	Pastor Laura Henrik	n/a		
Director of Music	Mary Phillips	n/a		

**AGENDA:**

- 1. Call to Order: Angela | Opening Devotion: Angela | Approval of January minutes:** A motion was made by Michele W. to approve the January meeting notes, Cristal M. seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

- 2. Finance Update:** Steve Hess reviewed the balance sheet for the month of January. For that month we had approximately \$4500 less in income and about \$300 over in expenses, which might be related to the severe cold we experienced during that month. He also reviewed the new line item for Balance Budget money and explained that due to the lower amount of giving during December, our Unrestricted Cash Reserve is less than anticipated at this time. He does anticipate, though, that the UCR account should improve over the coming year. He also reported that, as of today, there is #3227 in the Building Maintenance Fund, after receiving \$519 in January.

Michele W. reported that the Stewardship Committee will meet soon. Their committee will break down levels of giving among congregation members, in anticipation of what will be available to offer our new pastor as the search process begins. They have also decided to drop their current fundraising plans (Sponsor a Day campaign) for now, though will return to this topic in the upcoming months. Michele also said that paper usage and printing are down from previous levels and that she will be meeting with the printer service provider to renegotiate our service contract with them.

- 3. Pastor Mark Updates:** Pastor Mark provided some details on three upcoming events that he will be attending over the next several months. Next week he will travel to Nashville to attend a two-day gathering sponsored by the Southeastern Synod to address gun violence in Tennessee communities. Then in May (May 13-16), he will attend training sponsored by the Lutheran Seminary in Pittsburgh, PA. And, finally, he will be attending the Southeastern Synod Assembly with other Messiah Assembly representatives May 31-June 3.

- 4. Monthly reports:** Michele W. would like to revisit the Shepherd program at Messiah as was previously practiced though it seems to have been moved away from over the past several years. Discussion followed and it was decided that this might be something for the Care and Invite committees to pursue.

Jon D. has no update on the furnace, but did receive a bill for \$1600 for work completed on the furnace prior to the heat exchange issue. He did tell us that the door to the Fellowship Hall will be repaired this coming week.

- 5. Correspondence, updates, building use requests, etc.:** Correspondences and building requests were presented. There wasn't any action needed.

- 6. Small Group Meetings with Pastor Mark:** Pastor Mark told us that he and Kristin will schedule approximately 10 meetings, both day and night options, with approximately 10 people allowed in each meeting. He will also need at least one Council member in attendance in order to take notes as each group considers what Messiah needs from the new pastor. Once all meetings have occurred, Kristin will enter all the data into a document online which is then used by the Synod to help identify candidates for us to consider.

- 7. God's Work. Our Hands. Saturday, March 23 from 10:00 to 4:00:** Michele W. reminded us to sign up for specific jobs which will be tended to on that day. This is a very important day for Messiah and will require as many members as are able, to sign up on the sheet located in the hall. She will run announcements for this event each week from now until March 23rd. There will be a meal provided by Village Vibe at the end of the day (a Baked Potato Bar) so that the day's stories can be shared during a time of fellowship at the end of the day. She is also canvassing local groups, such as Scouts, area schools, etc. for extra help for that event.

8. **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration update:** Our 70th Anniversary Year Celebration culminates in a luncheon on Sunday, December 8. Reverend Steve Meisenheimer, former pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Knoxville, which led the efforts to develop the two new "seedling" congregations that became Messiah Lutheran in Knoxville and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Maryville in 1954, will attend this special event. Larry Moeller has agreed to write several more "Fanning the Flame" episodes as part of his Ace Theater series, which will be presented throughout this year as we prepare for the anniversary celebration in December. Judy and Sonny Mennel are now on the 70th Anniversary Celebration Committee and the Fellowship Committee has agreed to help also. Larry has asked the Fellowship Committee to include one of his Ace Theater plays as part of the August brunch Sunday events and they have agreed to help with this.
9. **"Messiah Forward" task force update:** Mike Driskill has told the Council that this task force will be meeting next week.
10. **Synod Assembly Representatives:** The Southeastern Synod Assembly will meet this year May 31-June 2 in Columbus, GA. Jane and Doug Mason are attending as will Beth Ford, since she is on the Synod Council. Michele W. would like to see some representatives be chosen from those who are new to Messiah or have never had the chance to attend.
11. **Adjourn with prayer:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Cristal M. Jack W. seconded her motion and it was approved unanimously. Angel K. closed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Carolyn Lawhorn

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Saturday, March 9, 8:30-12:30**

**DEVOTION PROVIDED BY: Davin Henrik**

**BRUNCH PROVIDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**UPCOMING DEADLINE for COMMITTEE REPORTS: Monday, March 4**