

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Room 127

Present: Liv Charlton, Pastor Robin Coughenower, Duane Danielson, Amanda Franklin, Jill Hyda, Phil McIlrath, Liz Nelson, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, Ken Popken, Teresa Powers, Bob Prigge, Randy Ratekin, Paul Rogness, Ann Rowland, Linda Russell, Marilyn Warling

Absent: Jamie Charlton

Visitors: Bishop Michael Burk, Marc Anderson, Mary Anderson, Katie Fergus, Megan Seifert

I. Call to Order – Prigge called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

We Gather in God's Name

Charlton, L. shared devotions and verse from Philippians 2:15.

II. Special Presentation

- The Personnel Committee recommended to the Executive Committee that Council look at a staffing plan and missional needs of the congregation in a financially sustainable way, taking into account the recent reduction in ELCA mission support and current and future unmet staffing recommendations for children, youth and family ministry, communication coordinator, volunteer coordinator and the financial viability of continuing to fund the Associate Pastor position.
- Bishop Michael Burk thanked the congregation for their continuing support of the synod. Bishop Burk presented on synod procedures related to changes in call positions and resources available to Council for work on the future financial and staff direction of the congregation. Bishop Burk encouraged the congregation to be the healthiest as possible for all.
- A Staffing Task Force was established to bring a recommended staffing plan to Council. Bishop Burk will provide a resource to the task force to facilitate the questioning needed to assist with development of a staffing plan. The task force will provide frequent updates to Council. Members serving on the task force are as follows:
 - Marilyn Warling – task force leader
 - Maren Steensen
 - Amanda Franklin
 - Phil McIlrath
 - Ken Popken
 - Quent Boyken
 - Pastor Chris

III. Approval of February 2017 Minutes

Popken moved to approve the February 2017 minutes. Seconded by Rogness. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson presented the report. The special offering to the Southeast Iowa Synod for ELCA missional support was \$712.

- The Finance Committee conducted a closer review of the Project Open Door Capital Appeal pledges, payments and fund balance.
- A Banker's Trust Certificate of Deposit matured in March and was cashed. The Finance Committee will be reviewing a separate Certificate of Deposit maturing in the near future.
- The Finance Committee recommended to Council that a single payment of \$50,000 be applied against the mortgage. It is estimated this \$50,000 one-time payment would shorten the mortgage by 6 months, saving \$86,148 in monthly payments.

Popken moved to make a one-time payment of \$50,000 to be applied against the mortgage. Seconded by Rowland. Motion carried.

Ratekin moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Powers. Motion carried.

V. Unfinished Business

- None discussed

VI. Consent Agenda

- Fellowship, Worship, Family Life & Youth March committee minutes were presented.

Nelson moved to approve the Fellowship, Worship, and Family Life & Youth March committee minutes. Seconded by Franklin. Motion carried.

VII. Pastors' Reports & Teaching

- Pastor Chris reported on the 25th anniversary of communion agreements between the ELCA, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ and the Reformed Church in America. The agreements mean the churches are full communion partners and have reconciled on past divisive issues. Full communion allows the exchangeability of clergy in certain circumstances and shared planning and cooperation in mission. Communion agreements are also in place with the Episcopal Church and Moravian Church. Pastor Chris attended the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations of the Presbyterian Church (USA) where he represents the ELCA. The committee is evaluating if there are opportunities to share administrative tasks and resources.
- Pastor Chris also updated on the Freedom to Believe Rally on April 2 at the Iowa Capitol.
- Pastor Robin brought the facility use policy for Council review. Facility use fees specifically for WHLC members were addressed.

Popken moved to adopt the recommended revised facility use rates for WHLC members. Seconded by McIlrath. Motion carried.

The teaching focused on Exodus 2:1-17.

VIII. New Business

Council met in Executive Session to discuss personnel related matters.

The Executive Session was closed.

- Staffing Update
 - Two position descriptions for the Youth Ministry Coordinator (currently vacant) and Children's Ministry Coordinator (will be vacant in May) are in place. Circulation of the position descriptions were put on hold based on discussion from the Parish Education Committee. Volunteer children ministry and youth ministry leaders may be used for an interim period until a staffing pattern is in place.
- Pigs with a Purpose
 - Project provided through the Southeastern Iowa Synod to focus on anti-hunger stance and raise funds to fight hunger. Pigs made out of plywood are provided to any group or individual committed to raising at least \$500 towards anti-hunger efforts. Funds will be raised until the Synod Assembly in mid-May. Money raised will presented as a special offering at the assembly.

Rogness moved WHLC to fund \$500 for Pigs with a Purpose. Seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

- Thrivent Requests
 - Liaisons are to bring notice to their committees. All requests are to be submitted by April 18 (week before Council meeting). Council will review and approve Thrivent Fund requests and disbursements approved at April's meeting.
- Foundation Request
 - A Foundation report will be provided to Council in April. Funds will be distributed in May. Requests must be received by May 1st.

IX. Announcements, Correspondence & Assignments

- Executive Committee Meeting – April 11, 5:30 PM
- All-Committee Night – April 11, 6:30 PM; Rowland, facilitator, devotions, refreshments
- Council Meeting – April 25, 6:30 PM
- April Council Meeting Devotions & Refreshments – Rowland
- Council Updates to Congregation
 - Saturday 5:30 PM Service – Popken
 - Sunday 8:30 AM Service – Prigge
 - Sunday 10:45 AM Service – Rogness

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Adjournment

Pastor Chris led us in a closing devotion with Psalm 136 and prayer.

Ratekin moved to adjourn. Seconded by Franklin. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Hyda
WHLC Council Secretary
March 28, 2017