

**WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Congregation Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 27, 2019**  
**Room 127**

**Present:** Les Aasheim, Jamie Charlton, Pastor Robin Coughenower, Duane Danielson, Amanda Eakins, Jill Hyda, Ken Popken, Suzanne Nelson, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, John Reed, Ann Rowland, Linda Russell, Samuel Steensen, Mitch Yeager, Marilyn Warling

**Absent:** John Ambroson

**Visitors:** Zach Meyer

I. Call to Order & Quorum Established – Aasheim called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

***We Gather in God's Name***

- Nelson provided the devotion from *Gone from My Sight* by Henry van Dyke.

Memorial gift was added to the New Business section.

Nelson moved to approve the meeting agenda. Seconded by Popken. Motion carried.

II. Approval of July 2019 Minutes

Reed moved to approve the July 2019 minutes. Seconded by Warling. Motion carried.

III. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson provided the report to the Council. Finance recommends that approximately \$122,000 from the Loren Olson Estate memorial funds be applied as a principal payment to the mortgage. The annual audit will be conducted in September by the Finance Committee. The Certificate of Deposit that matured in August was renewed.

Warling moved that the Olson memorial funds be applied towards the principal payment of the mortgage. Seconded by Rowland. Motion carried.

Nelson moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Yeager. Motion carried.

IV. Vacation Bible School Report

- Meyers provided a recap on 2019 Vacation Bible School. Eighty nine children were signed up with about 76 participating during the week. This was an increase from last year. Thirty one volunteers helped during the week along with a large amount of donations. One third of the children were from the Chin Baptist Church, and one half of the participating children were not a member of WHLC or the Chin Baptist Church. The age distribution was fairly even, and there was an increase in the older children participating. Some challenges were observed during the afternoon session with having all of the age groups come together for large group activities. With more children participating in the afternoon session, it was more hectic. VBS has become

a big outreach opportunity and our biggest event. The curriculum used was from ELCA World Hunger. A budget breakdown was reviewed. Positive feedback has been received regarding the week and activities.

V. For the Good of the Order

- Steensen provided additional feedback on VBS and observations he had during the week as a volunteer.

VI. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Robin with the Finance Committee reviewed the list of permanent funds. Pastor Robin provided the list to Council and will be communicating to groups that there are funds available for specific needs.
- Pastor Chris reported that the new Wednesday family-friendly service will begin September 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. The Turning Point program continues and will be holding conversations with community members. In September, fellowship time between services will be focused on one-on-one conversations between participants similar to conversations held as part of the Turning Point program. New initiatives with the local schools may be evolving soon with opportunities in addition to the Reading and Math Buddies programs. Pastor Chris also shared a pastoral letter from Bishop Burk on the ELCA Assembly action to declare the church as a sanctuary church body as well as the ELCA's FAQ document.

VII. Unfinished Business

- 2019-2020 Worship Service Schedule
  - Reactions and feedback were reviewed, including the impact on volunteers and to continue thinking about the WHLC service schedule in the future.
- Capital Campaign & 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition
  - Warling, Yeager and Nelson are coordinating recognition of members' time and services.
  - The anniversary celebration luncheon was a success with 185 served. Inez Boyken and Linda Rye did an excellent job of co-chairing this event. The library set of Confirmation class photos is now in the Koinonia Room on the credenza. November 2/3 will be the anniversary year's last event. Jim Spizale is planning a display in the Parish Hall.
- WHLC Mission
  - A mission review will occur later this year.

VIII. Book Discussion

- Council discussed the chapters 12-13 of *Surprised by Hope* looking at our actions and mission, which do have an impact and find its way through the resurrection of creation. Do we have too much of everything except faith, hope and love? Council will read and discuss chapters 14-15 for September's meeting.

IX. New Business

- Volunteers
  - Ideas were discussed to encourage volunteers and easiness and availability of opportunities to serve.
- 2020 Budget Requests
  - Finance committee will be providing information to individual committees for 2020.
- Memorial Gift

Popken moved to enter Executive session. Seconded by Russell. Motion carried.

Popken moved to exit the Executive session. Seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

X. Committee Reports

- The August Fellowship and Worship committee meeting reports were provided to Council.

XI. Announcements

- Council Meeting – September 24, 6:30 PM
- Council Updates to Congregation – August 31/September 1
  - Saturday 5:30 PM Service – Nelson
  - Sunday 9:30 AM Service – Aasheim

***We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission***

XII. Adjournment

Pastor Robin closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Hyda  
WHLC Council Secretary  
August 27, 2019