

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 2020
Room 127

Present: Les Aasheim, John Ambrosen, Pastor Robin Coughenower, Sue Crum, Duane Danielson, Jill Hyda, Pam Lundell, Suzanne Nelson, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, John Reed, Halley Ryherd, Amanda Shepard-Eakins, Samuel Steensen

Absent: Jessica Chance, Mitch Yeager

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Ambrosen called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- Ambrosen led the group with a devotional from James 2:14.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. Secretary's Report

Reed moved to approve the January 2020 minutes. Seconded by Shepard-Eakins. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson reviewed the sequence of revenue report. General offerings were above budget but under expected percentage of giving. A certificate of deposit was renewed for another 10 months.

Reed moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Aasheim. Motion carried.

V. For the Good of the Order

- Men & Boy's Banquet
 - Aasheim shared that the talk by Joe McGovern from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was excellent and tied faith with nature, providing relevance to our church and personal lives. Good feedback on the event was also received from Joe.
- Lenten Suppers
 - The schedule has been set for the six Wednesday nights. Council will volunteer on March 25.
- Communications Sheet
 - Contact information was circulated for Council this year.

- Devotions/Refreshments Sheet
 - Council members signed up to provide devotions each month.
- Council Congregation Report
 - Hyda will provide the meeting minutes to Ambrosion for the update delivered at the weekend services.

VI. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Robin discussed a recent meeting she had with women of the Chin Baptist Church. While sharing about several of WHLC's women ministries, discussion often centered on women's issues and the cultural challenges these women face being refugees in a new country and culture. Pastor Chris' 25th anniversary of ordination will be celebrated June 14th. Pastor Robin will help coordinate with Council's assistance. Bishop Burke will be retiring this year. The Synod Council has asked for a monetary gift to the Southeastern Iowa Synod in honor of Bishop & Diane Burke, which will be donated ELCA Fund for Leaders and ELCA World Hunger. Pastor Chris & Pastor Robin will provide a letter of appreciation on behalf of WHLC. A dinner celebration will occur at the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly in Coralville.

Ryherd moved to open up to the congregation for the next month to receive gifts to honor Bishop Burke and place on the agenda to review at the March meeting. Seconded by Aasheim. Motion approved.

- Pastor Chris emphasized the continued theme of gratitude from the Chin Baptist Church to utilize WHLC space for classes, bible study and worship, which provides stability to their members and their lives amongst a different country and culture. February 25 was Lutheran Day on the Hill, which is coordinated by Lutheran Services of Iowa. The speaker this year was from ELCA World Hunger. All synods in Iowa participate, and participants meet with their state senators and representatives. This year was the largest gathering with over 300 participants. Being the first meeting with new council members, Pastor Chris reviewed that the pastors have an advisory role with Council and do not vote.

VII. Unfinished Business

- Parish Hall A/V Installation
 - Pastor Chris reported a live video and audio feed is available from the sanctuary to Parish Hall. A separate audio feed to the kitchen is also available. The audio system continues to be adjusted. Video recording is not included at this time.
- Crabtree Plaque
 - A plaque needs to be developed and installed for Parish Hall. Aasheim volunteered to coordinate with support from the pastors. The Finance Committee is reviewing options with providing a large payment to the mortgage.
- Worship Services
 - The Executive Committee is proposing to move to one Sunday service after Easter Sunday and extend five weeks earlier than when the one summer service typically starts. This would include a month in adjusted schedule with music ensembles, forums and fellowship. Conversations would be conducted

immediately after the month to receive feedback from the congregation. A letter will be sent from Ambrosion to the congregation regarding the change.

Aasheim moved to hold one Sunday 9:30 AM service April 19 – May 17 with adult fellowship following the service. Seconded by Crum. Motion carried.

Ryherd moved to schedule an adult forum for May 31 after the 9:30 AM Sunday service to discuss and receive feedback from the month of one regular Sunday service. Seconded by Aasheim. Motion carried.

VIII. New Business

Council met in Executive Session to discuss personnel related matters.

The Executive Session was closed.

- Facility Manager Position
 - A job description was shared with Council. The position would coordinate work with outside vendors and be able to complete light work at the facility. Cleaning of the facility would still be handled by Merritt. The position may be at the facility 4-5 hours per week.

Ryherd moved to approve the Facility Manager job description. Seconded by Reed. Motion carried.

Ryherd moved to offer the job to Chuck Young. Seconded by Aasheim. Motion carried.

- Worship Leader Position
 - The job description has not changed and was previously filled by Steve Dressel for Saturday worship and may include one Sunday a month.

Lundell moved to appoint Amanda Lauritsen as Worship Leader. Seconded by Steensen. Motion carried.

- Personnel Committee
 - The committee consists of John Swanson and Mike Blake. Halley Ryherd will replace John Ambrosion on the committee as the third member.
- Door closer
 - The button is currently not working, and what is needed to fix is being gathered.

IX. Committee Liaisons

- Council liaisons were set for this year. Pastor Chris recommended liaisons read their committee charter and reach out to their committee chair. The liaisons are to be a link between the Council and committees. The Finance Committee is available to assist with reviewing committee budgets. An All-Committee evening in the fall will be held to complete 2021 proposed budgets with the Finance Committee.
 - Global & Community Action – Crum

- Worship – Nelson
- Care & Nurture – Steensen
- Parish Education – Shepard-Eakins
- Family Life & Youth – Lundell
- Fellowship – Chance
- Finance – Reed
- Buildings & Grounds – Yeager

X. Article & Book Discussions

- Council will read *Being Disciples* by Rowan Williams. Council to read the Introduction & Chapter 1 for the March Council meeting.
- Council reviewed an article regarding decline in religious participation in the U.S. In 1988, the ELCA was over 5 million members. In 2019, the ELCA is now under 2.5 million members. How do our stories of faith and traditions resonate with others and daily life?

XI. Announcements

- Council Meeting – March 24, 6:30 PM
- Council Congregational Update – February 29/March 1
 - Saturday, 5:30 PM – Nelson
 - Sunday, 8:30 AM – Crum
 - Sunday, 10:45 AM – Ambroson

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

XII. Reflections

- Pastor Robin shared several verses from Psalm 51.

XIII. Closing Prayer

- Pastor Robin closed in prayer.

XIV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jill Hyda
 WHLC Council Secretary
 February 25, 2020