

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Present: John Ambroson, Jessica Chance, 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, Mitch Yeager

Absent: None

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Ambroson called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

- Crum shared a reading from a letter received from the pastor at Augustana College around Easter.

II. Approval of the Agenda

No changes needed.

III. Secretary's Report

Nelson moved to approve the March 2020 minutes. Seconded by Ryherd. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson provided the report to Council and was thankful for the offerings received in March. The mortgage restructure was completed. The monthly obligation has dropped from \$14,000 to \$7,000. Danielson is also working with Vanco who processes Simply Giving to allow WHLC to accept credit & debit card offerings. A mobile app may be used called GivePlus. A Donation button will be added to the WHLC website for both visitors and congregation members as well. Communication will be provided to the congregations on this availability.

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

V. For the Good of the Order

- None to report.

VI. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Robin reported on pastoral care during the pandemic, connecting with members and time spent with family members of members who have recently

passed. She has also coordinated with each offering counting team each week. The teams are following proper COVID-19 procedures.

- Pastor Chris shared points to consider when looking towards gathering together again. The leaders from every major Christian denomination issued a letter encouraging congregations in the state to not gather at this time due to continued spread of the virus and in light of the gubernatorial proclamation allowing religious services to commence with certain practices being followed. Bishop Burk from the Southeastern Iowa Synod will be sharing his own letter and comments next week. Discussion occurred on the COVID-19 situation. Council will reconvene later in May to review the current status, recommendations from the synod and discuss a path forward for both the congregation and outside groups that use the facility. Online worship will continue for at least the next three weeks.

VII. Old Business

- Family Promise Update
 - WHLC is to host in May. Guests are being hosted at Westminster Presbyterian to allow for social distancing. Overnight hosts are needed, and the Charlton family will be serving in this capacity during the entire week. Meals are being provided from outside. It is expected the same protocol will be used in June when WHLC is hosting again.
- WHLC Foundation Liaison
 - A new liaison is needed from council. Ambrosion will serve as the liaison.
- Crabtree Plaque
 - Ryherd provided an update on the plaque to recognize the naming of Parish Hall. A plaque has been chosen that is similar to the plaque in the entry way. A bronze plaque has been ordered. It is 9x12". The amount is \$545. The plaque will be ready within a month.

Ryherd moved to approve the \$545 from the council discretionary funds. Seconded by Crum. Motion carried.

- Landscaping
 - Several proposals were provided from DeVries Outdoor to make the grounds' upkeep more manageable. When the situation allows, Pastor Chris and Chuck Young as Facility Manager will meet with DeVries to review the proposals in more detail at the WHLC grounds.
- Stock Sale
 - Danielson reported that WHLC has three stock investments. Normal procedure when stocks are received as gifts are that they are sold the same day. However, WHLC was not aware of the gifts until mid-March when the stock market decreased due to the pandemic. Gifts at the time of transfer were valued at \$39,000. As of today, the stocks devalued \$7,400. Danielson recommended holding the stocks for another 30-90 days before selling.

Ryherd moved to approve extending the hold period for up to another 90 days. Seconded by Yeager. Motion carried.

VIII. New Business

- Custodian Position
 - Pastor Chris shared that Jim Spizale has retired and has interest in conducting the custodial duties at 20 hours per week. Jim previously held the custodial position before The Merritt Company was hired when Jim left the position. The Executive Committee has recommended rehiring Jim at the same rate and hours per week as previous. The contract with The Merritt Company is being reviewed to move forward with notification of termination. Jim would start on June 1. There will be no change in spending for custodial care by terminating the contract with Merritt and hiring Jim.

Nelson moved to approve hiring Jim Spizale as custodian starting June 1. Seconded by Shepard-Eakins. Motion carried.

- Mutual Ministry Committee
 - With Les Aasheim's passing, Ambrosion will ask Paul Rogness if he would be willing to serve another year as the next most recent past council president. Ken Popken will be asked to chair the committee.
- Livestream Services
 - A camera was recently installed in the back of the sanctuary for the feed to the Crabtree Parish Hall. Additional installation of equipment would allow for livestreaming worship services to third party outlets such as Facebook. The quote from CEC is around \$2,500. An upgrade in copyright licenses is required to post videos with music, which would be \$300-500 annually.

Reed moved to approve up to \$2,500 for the installation of equipment to allow livestreaming within the sanctuary and utilizing funds from the Les Aasheim memorial. Seconded by Shepard-Eakins. Motion carried.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – May 26, 6:30 PM
- Council Congregational Update – Ambrosion

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections

- Council shared reflections on how they are doing during the pandemic.

XI. Closing Prayer

- Pastor Chris closed with an evening prayer from Martin Luther.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Hyda
WHLC Council Secretary
April 28, 2020