

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

Present: John Ambrosen, 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, Mitch Yeager

Absent: Samuel Steensen

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

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

- Yeager shared a short discussion on Martin Luther King, Jr.

II. Secretary's Report

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

III. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson provided the report to Council. June offerings were down, and offerings are below budget year-to-date. However, WHLC continues to hold several stock and mutual fund gift investments. Market values of the investments continue to be monitored.

Shepard-Eakins moved to extend the hold of the gift investments for up to September 30, 2020 with discretion to liquidate if market value dictates during this time. Seconded by Reed. Motion carried.

IV. For the Good of the Order

- None to report.

V. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Robin reported on the status of pledges to date during the pandemic. WHLC continues to be grateful for the gifts provided. Any planned unused continuing education funds will be transferred to the pastoral sabbatical permanent fund. A new bishop will be elected at next week's SE Iowa Synod Assembly.

- Pastor Chris shared that depending on the pandemic his plans include a sabbatical in 2021. Amanda Shepard-Eakins and Joel Waymire will be WHLC's members participating at the virtual SE Iowa Synod Assembly.

VI. Old Business

- Landscaping
 - The first payment has been mailed. The sod will be laid when the weather is more favorable. Daily watering will be needed once laid. In the meantime, Yeager completed weeding and clean-up work on the beds.
- WHLC Foundation
 - A check was received from the foundation for \$4,000 available to WHLC for landscaping.
- Small Group Worship Services
 - Members are participating in the small group services. Attendance numbers vary with each service. People are appreciative of the opportunity for communion and small gathering during this time.

VII. New Business

- Health Advisory Task Force Report & Schedule
 - The Health Advisory Task Force will be meeting monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month as the pandemic continues. A Plan to Re-Gather has been created by the Health Advisory Task Force, the pastors and the Executive Committee and was presented to Council for review. Tools being used for the plan include both the Harvard Global Health Institute <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/> and the state of Iowa COVID-19 trends https://covidactnow.org/us/ia/county/polk_county/?s=775136. Trends over two week periods continue to be monitored by staff and the Health Advisory Task Force and will be utilized before moving risk level phases. The guidelines will also apply to outside groups who use the facility.
- Heartland Youth Choir
 - Sandy Miller, Executive Director of Heartland Youth Choir, met with the Executive Committee & Health Advisory Task Force on a return-to-meet plan in the fall. Heartland is following guidelines from professional choral organizations. A plan has been provided to staff and Council. Tentative approval has been provided by the committees.
 - Review and discussion will occur if WHLC groups and others want to meet at the facility during the week.

Ryherd moved to approve Heartland's return to the facility plan in the fall and in tangent with WHLC's Return to Re-Gather plan with flexibility to renegotiate space to hold church activities. Seconded by Lundell. Motion carried.

- Other Uses of Church Policy
 - A conservative approach will be conducted as other groups look at a return policy and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

- Fall Schedule
 - The schedule will be subject to the re-gathering plan. Wednesday and Sunday activities are being explored, including confirmation while considering there will be additional stress with return to school and other activities during the fall.

VIII. Announcements

- Council Meeting – August 25, 6:30 PM
- Council Congregational Update – Ambrosion

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

IX. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Robin reflected on people who were isolated from their church community, especially before and now during the pandemic.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

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