

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 25, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Present: John Ambrosion, Jessica Chance, Pastor Robin Coughenower, Sue Crum, Duane Danielson, Jill Hyda, Pam Lundell, Suzanne Nelson, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, John Reed, Halley Ryherd, Samuel Steensen, Mitch Yeager

Absent: Amanda Shepard-Eakins

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Ambrosion called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.
- Nelson shared a reflection from a Christian author in northwestern Iowa.

II. Secretary's Report

Lundell moved to approve the July 2020 minutes. Seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

III. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson provided the report to Council. One of the donated investment funds was liquidated in August. A Certificate of Deposit was renewed less \$60,000, which was transferred to the Mission Investment Fund to support the mortgage retirement.

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

IV. For the Good of the Order

- None to report.

V. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Robin shared details from the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly virtual meeting and the election of a new bishop. She welcomed her new grandson earlier today and hopes to be able take some time to visit soon.
- Pastor Chris reported on the current status of in-person gatherings. Gatherings of small groups are occurring with more outdoor activities being planned for youth, confirmation and other groups. During September we will be observing the season of creation. Reflections and prayers on this theme will be incorporated into worship, social media and other areas. The season ends with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and the blessing of pets on October 4. God's Work, Our Hands will be observed on September 13, and WHLC will uplift several charity organizations of interest to the congregation.

VI. Old Business

- Landscaping
 - Work has begun with some beds being cleaned and mulch added. A plan is needed to water the sod once it is laid when the weather cooperates. Yeager will trim the ornamental grass covering the sign.
- Health Advisory Team
 - The team met in August and reviewed the plans with weekday and Saturday night services as well as outdoor activities. The group also discussed steps that would be taken if the alert level moved backwards.
- Fall Schedule
 - In-person weekday services will continue at 9:30 AM and 3:00 PM on Tuesdays along with a service at 5:30 PM on Saturdays and the 9:30 AM Sunday livestream service. Wednesday evening outdoor activities be held from 6:00-7:00 PM for the next six weeks. Activities will focus on worship, prayer and fellowship.
- Small Group Worship Services
 - As alert level remains orange, the weekday Tuesday services will continue. The Wednesday 7 PM service will not be held, as Wednesday evening activities will take place during early fall.
- Heartland Youth Choir
 - HYC is planning to move forward with implementation of their plan. The group plans to utilize the Parish Hall.

VII. New Business

- Drive-Through Voter Registration
 - A group approached WHLC about using the parking lot as a non-partisan voter registration and absentee ballot sign-up site. The group will host this site a couple weekday evenings and Saturday morning for the next several weeks.
- Outdoor Worship
 - The service will be held at 5:30 PM on Saturday under the elm tree. No congregational singing will occur due to concerns to virus spread.
- Tree Removal
 - A tree service has been scheduled to remove the dead tree that fell southwest of the parking lot during the derecho.
- United Way 21-Day Equity Challenge
 - The challenge is an event for shared learning and understanding on how inequity and racism affects our community and lives. Daily emails with articles, videos and other opportunities for awareness and examination will be sent. WHLC will be listed as an organizer supporter. Participation in the challenge will be offered to the congregation.

VIII. Announcements

- Council Meeting – September 22, 6:00 PM (plan to meet outside pending weather)
- Council Congregational Update – Ambrosion

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

IX. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Chris reflected on individuals who are isolated within our community and shared Psalm 139.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

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