

Your WHLC church council met on September 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. by video conference. John Ambrosion called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Pam Lundell provided opening devotions and prayer.

The agenda was approved followed by approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 25, 2020. Duane Danielson provided a Treasurers Report. August was a strong month thanks to continued support from the congregation and the sale of some stock as part of a pledge. A small amount of stock remains to be sold. The Treasurer and Finance Chair are handling it with guidance from council. We are blessed to have so many faithful members supporting the mission of our church.

Pastor Chris provided a report to the council. He spoke at length about the draining effect on people at this six month point in the COVID journey. Many are hitting a wall. We need to be especially supportive of our members and staff in this time of need. Studies show that people will adjust in a few more weeks, but this period is difficult. It was suggested that council members provide notes of encouragement and reflection to the congregation through the Windsor Window and E-Weekly. Council agreed to do so. Chris also shared a message from our Bishop Burk that does not advise returning to worship yet. We need to be prepared for a longer period before re-gathering as one. We continue to monitor COVID levels in Polk county and leverage the advice of our Health Committee as we make decisions in the future. We need to be prepared for not being able to gather for Advent, Christmas and the Annual Meeting. Stewardship options were also discussed. Exec committee will be engaged in further dialogue about it at the net meeting in early October

Pastor Robin did not provide a report as she is on vacation.

The council discussed the landscaping done to date at the church. The landscaper did work that we did not authorize but have been billed for. Pastor Chris will be talking again to the to work out a solution. The red crushed brick near the entrance looks nice but was expensive to put in. We still need sod and other work. Council will review options once we have more discussion with the landscaper. There is a tree that still needs to be removed from the SW corner of the property left over from the derecho.

The fall schedule and outdoor worship has gone well to date. The weather will be getting colder. Further direction will come from the Health Committee and Council as we get further into October and begin to look ahead to November and December.

September has focused on God's creation. It will culminate on the Feast of St. Francis, October 4. There will be a blessing of the animals.

The congregation will be encouraged to participate in the United Way Equity Challenge in October. It is a chance to learn more about the social justice and discrimination through reading information sent out daily.

A draft budget has been prepared to work off of as we prepare for 2021. Staff and leadership are reviewing before it is sent to council for further study and adjustment. The nominating committee process will also begin later this fall for 2021 leadership. Exec committee will be discussing at their October meeting.

Following reflections and prayer by Pastor Chris the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be October 27.

Yours in Christ,
John Ambrosion, President