

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 24, 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, Amanda Shepard-Eakins, Samuel Steensen, Mitch Yeager

Absent: None

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Ambrosion called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

- Ambrosion shared a verse on the First Sunday of Advent and a section from *A Nehemiah Code: It's Never Too Late for a New Beginning* by O.S. Hawkins on rebuilding.

II. Secretary's Report

Ryherd moved to approve the October 2020 minutes. Seconded by Chance. Motion carried.

III. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson provided the report to Council. The audit of four months during 2020 is in process. A Certificate of Deposit is maturing and will be rolled over. The stock investments being held were sold and liquidated on November 24 and will add about \$7,500 to the general fund.

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

IV. For the Good of the Order

- None to report.

V. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Robin provided the process for the WHLC constitution amendment needed to be in line with the ELCA model constitution. This will be voted at the Annual Meeting. Council members are encouraged to volunteer with the Christmas Stroll on December 19. Insurance coverage is being reviewed. A quote from Church Mutual is being obtained, and they offer some additional resources.

- Pastor Chris shared upcoming Advent plans. The online coffee hour has a good addition for connection on Sunday mornings. Additional resources regarding mental health and needs will be communicated to the congregation. Pastor Chris challenged the Council to reflect on how we are serving our neighbors during this

time, especially after much focus has been on pastoral care and keeping connected as a community.

VI. Old Business

- Health Advisory Team
 - The team met the week of November 16th. WHLC remains in the red zone protocol due to continued high community spread, which means no in-person gatherings including small worship services and funerals. The team will meet again in December.
- Tree Removal
 - Nothing new to report this month.
- Council Reflections
 - Members have provided reflections, and more are welcomed with the focus being gratitude in the next several weeks.
- Stewardship
 - A letter will be sent from the pastors, Ambrosion and Ryherd on the plans for stewardship in 2021. A pledge card will be included should a unit want to make a change in their 2021 pledge.
- Budget 2021
 - The Finance Committee reviewed a draft of the basic budget. Additional review with the committee will occur after the end of the month with Council review at the December meeting. A couple virtual sessions may be held to provide a basic review the budget with the congregation prior to the Annual Meeting.
- Nominating Committee
 - The committee has met and is contacting people regarding their interest with serving on Council.
- Annual Meeting
 - The meeting is set for January 24 at 11 AM. Ryherd is looking to package all meeting materials and log-in at one place likely on the WHLC website.

VII. New Business

- Christmas Season Activities
 - The Parish Education committee is putting together a video from the youth on Christmas traditions that will be shared on social media. A Christmas Stroll is scheduled for December 19th with goodie bags, readings and music. A midweek Bible study and prayer service will be held online at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays during Advent. Middle school youth will also be participating.
 - Christmas Eve live-stream service will occur at 4 PM and possibly an outdoor vigil on the front lawn between 6-6:30 PM.
 - The Christmas morning live-stream service will be at 10 AM.

- Southeastern Iowa Bishop Meeting
 - Bishop Current is meeting with member churches in the synod. The pastors will look to schedule a virtual meeting with Council members that are available on January 19 at 5:30 PM.
- 2021 Council Meeting Dates
 - Possible new meeting dates were discussed for the next year.

VIII. Announcements

- Council Meeting – December 22, 6:00 PM
- Council Congregational Update – Ambrosion

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

IX. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Robin led Council in a closing prayer.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Hyda
WHLC Council Secretary
November 24, 2020