

**WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Congregation Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 22, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** John Ambrosion, Julie Borseth, Jessica Chance, Pastor Robin Coughenower, Sue Crum, Tony Dahlman, Duane Danielson, Tracey Hirst, Jill Hyda, Pam Lundell, Matt McNamara, Suzanne Nelson, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, John Reed, Halley Ryherd, Amanda Shepard-Eakins  
**Absent:** Samuel Steensen

***We Gather in God's Name***

I. Call to Order

- Ryherd called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.
  
- Nelson shared information related to Black History month and specifically details about the proclamation by Abraham Lincoln. Nelson shared a prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Reed moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Hirst. Motion carried.

III. Secretary's Report

Lundell moved to approve the January 2021 minutes. Seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson provided the report to Council. January 2021 was a small month for general offerings. The fifth Sunday of January will count within February. Expenses were in line. Property insurance payments now occurring quarterly, and the first payment was in January. As expected with the recent weather, snow removal is above budget. A Certificate of Deposit matured and was renewed.

V. For the Good of the Order

- A reminder was shared about the personal care kit initiative during Lent.

VI. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Robin shared that an annual report of the congregation was sent to the synod and ELCA. This includes average worship attendance. With the pandemic, the report asked for both in-person and online attendance. The pastors also provide a report to the bishop of the synod, which reflects on their salary, benefits, ministry and continuing education. While many typical items did not happen, it did highlight the flexibility, patience and creativity that occurred during the year.

- Pastor Chris reported that Easter Seals recently reached out about having small meetings again within the facility. He is trying to follow-up with the contact to get more information. Pastor Chris sees three priority areas to address while transitioning to normal activities: (1) Reintegration, (2) Resuming partnerships within the community and (3) Reflecting and thinking together towards the future.

## VII. Old Business

- Health Advisory Team
  - The team met earlier in the month. The team decided to continue as-is. Small groups of 10-15 may meet and small, in-person communion. The team reviewed knowledge with new variants now circulating and likelihood of transmission post-vaccination.
  - A statement will be included from the advisory team encouraging vaccination by members when available and the effects of vaccination within the community.
- Parking Lot Painting
  - Ryherd is collecting information from Wayne Barrett and will report back in the next couple months.

## VIII. New Business

- Committee Liaisons/Leadership Discussion
  - Ryherd asked the question if there is an area this year where Council could focus and be leaders to the congregation. Lundell suggested small group discussions about what we have discovered this past year personally and with our WHLC community about service and more. Reed discussed different levels anxiety and fear that are present and how we can reassure members and help everyone feel comfortable amongst their own circumstances. McNamara brought up reviewing and leveraging outreach to various organizations and families that are looking to connect to something new as a result of being more isolated during the pandemic. Other ideas included how to demonstrate WHLC's strengths and what makes the community special to other minority groups and leveraging digital worship and group meetings when in-person gatherings resume.
  - Ryherd will reach out to Council members over the next month regarding leadership opportunities and areas of passion.
  - Council will continue the discussion of a standing committee structure versus a focus on priority projects with task forces.
- Summer Activities
  - Plans surrounding Heartland Youth Choir summer camp and Vacation Bible School have started.

## IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Monday, March 22, 6:30 PM

***We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission***

- X. Reflections & Closing Prayer
- Pastor Chris reflected on the loss of over 500,000 lives in the U.S. and millions more around the world due to COVID-19. Pastor Chris shared verses from Isaiah 49 and the Gospel of John before leading Council in a moment of prayer.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Hyda  
WHLC Council Secretary  
February 22, 2021