

**WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Congregation Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 26, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** John Ambroson, Julie Borseth, Jessica Chance, 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:** Pastor Robin Coughenower, Samuel Steensen

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

I. Call to Order

- Ryherd called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.
  
- Crum shared a verse from Thessalonians and thankfulness for what the church has done for the congregation over the last 13 months.

II. Approval of the Agenda

McNamara made an addition to New Business regarding a recommendation from the Finance Committee. Consensus was received by Council for the addition.

III. Secretary's Report

Crum moved to approve the March 2021 minutes. Seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson provided the report to Council. A Certificate of Deposit matured and was renewed. It is likely snow removal will be over budget for the year. Lenten offerings left after kit donations will be provided to Lutheran World Relief.

V. For the Good of the Order

- Council will plan to meet in person for May's meeting in Parish Hall to allow more space. Additional details will be shared as the meeting approaches. Council members may contact Ryherd with any questions or concerns.

VI. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Chris & Pastor Robin shared plans to regather, reconnect and renewal. Two services will be offered on Sunday morning starting on May 16<sup>th</sup>, allowing up to 40 people in the sanctuary for worship. Sign-up will not be required. Additional people above 40 will be directed to Parish Hall for a livestream. Communion will be provided in both locations with wafers. Congregational singing will be discouraged at this present time. Pastor Robin shared worship space configuration after review with members of the Health Advisory Team. Volunteer ushers and greeters will be

needed to support and guide members. Saturday evening worship service will be held outdoors weather permitting and provides an option for those more comfortable to meet in person outside. When Saturday night service is moved to inside, Amanda will shift to primary responsibility for Saturday. Jan will serve primarily on Sunday. The Saturday worship service may also be livestreamed. Reconnecting with neighbors and groups who use the facility is also underway. The pastors will reach out to groups such as the Chin Baptist group, the women's AA group, Easter Seals, etc. Both pastors met with the Mutual Ministry Committee and discussed focus on environmental justice, care for creation and racial justice.

#### VII. Old Business

- Health Advisory Team
  - The team met last month. The team continues to proceed with caution while monitoring changes within the community and other regions. Guidance was provided by the team for Vacation Bible School.
- Congregation Phone Calls
  - Council shared themes they heard during phone calls with members. People are anxious to get back and be with their church family. Positive feedback was received on music. Members were thanked for reaching out by phone. Council may add ideas to the brainstorming Google document that has been shared.

#### VIII. New Business

- Short-Term Service Projects
  - The personal care kits drive was a huge success. Ryherd asked for any ideas for other service projects. Ideas included partnerships with the community schools whether school supplies, lunch money accounts/Backpack Buddies programs, DMARC Food Pantry needs as well as helping pay down medical debt.
- Thanks
  - The staff was thanked by Council for all their work this past year and keeping the congregation connected with services.

Hirst moved to use discretionary funds to purchase \$100 gift cards for Heidi Hennig, Zach Meyer, Jan Carlson and Amanda Lauritsen in appreciation of all their work during the pandemic. Seconded by Reed. Motion carried.

- Principal Mortgage Payment
  - The Finance Committee recommends an additional principal payment to the mortgage, as there is sizable balance in the capital appeal account. The additional payment would reduce the balance by 10% and allow more flexibility to recast the mortgage.

Ambrosion moved to approve an additional principal payment of \$107,240 for the mortgage. Seconded by McNamara. Motion carried.

- IX. Announcements
- Council Meeting – Monday, May 24, 6:30 PM

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

- X. Reflections & Closing Prayer
- Pastor Chris closed the meeting with a question on how can we share with more people to experience the way of Jesus and with a prayer.

- XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Hyda  
WHLC Council Secretary  
April 26, 2021