

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 24, 2021
Virtual Meeting

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

Absent: Tracey Hirst, Samuel Steensen

Visitors: Deb Goss

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Ryherd called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

- Lundell shared a portion from Amanda Gorman's poem recited at the inauguration and Romans 8:22-27. Lundell led the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

No changes.

III. WHLC Foundation Report & Annual Meeting

- The Council meeting was suspended at 6:45 PM for the Foundation Annual meeting. Goss provided the 2020 annual report. The foundation assets are over \$604,000. Many of the distributions for 2020 were around youth and family charity groups. In 2020, over \$22,000 was distributed to various charities. For 2021, about \$25,000 will be distributed with funds available to WHLC. Council is to submit a request by June 8th to the Foundation for use of these funds with a maximum gift of \$4,500. Deb Goss is the current Foundation president. John Ambroson is serving as council liaison. Mark Fasse completed his term in 2020. Norm Carlson has been nominated to the Foundation.

Reed moved to approve the nomination to the Foundation. Seconded by Borseth. Motion carried.

Council approved adjournment of the Foundation Annual meeting.

The Council meeting resumed.

IV. Secretary's Report

Nelson moved to approve the April 2021 minutes. Seconded by Chance. Motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson provided the report to Council. April was lower than expected month, but actuals remain above budget year-to-date. An additional principal payment of \$100,000 was made to the mortgage. The recast of the mortgage will not occur, as the account is locked in with the current interest rate for a couple more years. With the additional principal payment, the balance is below \$1,000,000.

VI. For the Good of the Order

- Reed shared that the landscaping completed in 2020 looks great.
- Thank you's were received from staff for recognition of their work during the pandemic and from Family Promise for continued support.
- Pastor Chris asked Council to think about the next steps in the mortgage retirement after this year when the three-year capital campaign ends. The topic will be discussed at next month's meeting.

VII. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Chris reported the need for Council to continue to affirm the guidance provided from the Health Advisory Team, as the team meets every month to review protocols and needs to update guidance. Pastor Chris is happy to share that Easter Seals program will be back at WHLC in June. The Chin Baptist Church has not yet returned to Sunday afternoon worship but will be holding a weeklong Chin language class for their youth in Crabtree Parish Hall in June. The pastors have also resumed visits with homebound members.
- Pastor Robin shared the anxiousness to have groups like Elderberries get back to meeting again but the need to respect and follow the guidance in place. Pastor Robin is also pleased that groups like the Women's AA and Girl Scout groups plan to return and use WHLC's facility in the coming months. Seventh & eighth grade confirmation concluded this past month, bringing an end to the program year. The synod meeting occurred this past month with Dahlman and Lundell servicing as WHLC's delegates. Pastor Robin shared that the synod ended the year in a positive financial position.

VIII. Old Business

- Health Advisory Team
 - The team discussed Vacation Bible School. Shepard-Eakins shared details currently being discussed. Groups will be by age, and many activities will occur outside. A sack lunch will be provided to participants. Registration will be open to member families and the Chin Baptist members to start.
 - The team also discussed singing during worship. Singing with masks is allowed if people are inclined.
- Parking Lot Painting
 - The painting of the lot on the west side of the lot is pending.

IX. New Business

- Family Promise
 - WHLC took a sabbatical this past year from hosting a week. Options are being explored regarding WHLC's future participation, including financial support, collaboration with Faith Lutheran to host a week or other donations. During the pandemic, Family Promise was held at Westminster and continues to do so at present. Council is not prepared to return to hosting a week at this current time but is open to have volunteer opportunities known to the members or support with other donations.
- Congregation Feedback
 - The calls were completed to congregation members by Council members. No additional topics from the calls were discussed.
- Potential Service Projects
 - Borseth checked with others on needs of the Food Pantry to help lead a collection this summer. The idea of holding neighborhood drives to support the WHLC collection was shared.
- Foundation Request
 - If Council has a charity they would like the Foundation to consider, let himself or Hyda know prior to June 8th.
 - Funds for additional equipment for the livestream will be requested from the Foundation for 2021. The sound equipment will help with musical groups and worship participants in the sanctuary as participants increase in-person.

X. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Monday, June 28, 6:30 PM (in-person)

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

XI. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Chris asked Council to think about how WHLC communicates what we value to the community. Pastor Chris shared a closing prayer.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM. Crum moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Reed. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Hyda
WHLC Council Secretary
May 24, 2021