

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 28, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Present: John Ambrosion, Julie Borseth, Jessica Chance, Pastor Robin Coughenower, Sue Crum, Duane Danielson, Tracey Hirst, Jill Hyda, Pam Lundell, Suzanne Nelson, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, Halley Ryherd

Absent: Tony Dahlman, Matt McNamara, John Reed, Amanda Shepard-Eakins, Samuel Steensen

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Ryherd called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

- Ryherd shared a blessing shared during a Wednesday night worship service last year and led the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Ambrosion moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

III. Secretary's Report

Chance moved to approve the May 2021 minutes. Seconded by Crum. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson provided the report to Council. Details were provided on the mortgage since initiation to where it is today. Danielson provided a summary in this month's Window.

V. For the Good of the Order

- Lundell talked about the Community Zoom on Wednesday evenings and the laughter and good times shared by all who participate.
- Pastor Robin shared that the west parking lot painting was completed.

VI. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Chris reported on items taking place with regathering and reconnecting, including multiple groups returning to use of the facility. He also shared social justice, community and hospitality questions to discuss. The past week had more people attending since worship began in person. Pastor Chris shared details from an article in the *Washington Post* about people returning to worship and different feelings about the pandemic and comfort for in-person events. CEC will provide a

proposal to improve the sound for the worship space, especially for the musical groups, which will assist with the livestream.

- Pastor Robin shared ideas other churches are doing to emphasize regathering. She will be looking at Elderberries perhaps meeting in person again in September. She also discussed how to process and deal with the loss from the pandemic, including members who have passed.

VII. Old Business

- Health Advisory Team
 - The team earlier this month. Children and volunteers will be masked at VBS, as many children will be too young to have been vaccinated. Prepared food is encouraged versus homemade goods. Services are moving forward with masks as optional, singing allowed while still maintaining social distancing.
- WHLC Foundation Results
 - The distribution information will be shared. WHLC will receive funds to support the sound system to help achieve a better livestream service.
- Service Projects
 - July 4th Food Drive
 - The food drive is ongoing, and people are encouraged to bring goods as shared in the pantry needs list.
 - Lutheran World Relief – Vaccination Fundraiser
 - The idea was brought forward to Council. The focus is on the global vaccination efforts. This fundraiser is looking to raise money to assist with (1) equipping clinics across Africa, Asia and Latin America, (2) train personnel to administer the vaccines and (3) provide services essential for survival such as masks and food assistance in refugee and displacement camps. Sharing tangible numbers on how much donations support in supplies, etc. would be helpful and perhaps coordinating with the next quilt delivery.
 - School Supply Drive
 - The idea was shared for a project to start later this summer. It was suggested to reach out to our partner schools to understand the need first.

VIII. New Business

- Capital Appeal
 - The history of the mortgage was discussed. This year is the end of the third year of the third capital appeal. The next step is deciding which way to proceed for the mortgage retirement such as initiating another capital appeal, absorbing within the annual budget, commitments to the building fund through annual pledges or other alternatives. The interest rate is locked in until 2023, the remaining debt is below \$1,000,000, and there is roughly 18 years left on the mortgage. There are funds available for the next 36-48 monthly payments, which would bring the debt down to approximately \$650,000. Danielson will have a note in the July Window about the mortgage to provide awareness and initiate

discussion. The Finance Committee will also discuss at their July meeting to provide additional recommendations to Council.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Monday, July 26, 6:30 PM (in-person)
- Homework – Review/Comment on Post-Pandemic Brainstorming List

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Chris closed with the Lord's Prayer.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Hyda
WHLC Council Secretary
June 28, 2021