

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

Present: John Ambrosion, 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, Samuel Steensen
Absent: Julie Borseth, Amanda Shepard-Eakins

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

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

- Chance shared a quote from Ana Sewell about kindness and love of our fellow human beings and passages from John 4, 1 Corinthians 13 and Mark 12.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. Secretary's Report

Reed moved to approve the June 2021 minutes. Seconded by Hirst. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson provided the report to Council. General offering has leveled about \$5-6K below expected budget on the month but remains ahead for the year. Ryherd thanked Danielson for his report in the Window. The balance of the remaining mortgage and balance of the capital appeal fund will be added to his monthly report.

V. For the Good of the Order

- Shephard-Eakins shared via report to Ryherd the following on Vacation Bible School: There is a total of 25 kids signed up and 30 volunteers. VBS is from 8 to 12:15 this year. Parents are picking up outside by the front lawn (weather permitting), allowing 15 to 20 minutes for travel when arriving. There are no more than 10 to a group. The following rooms are used: parish hall, sanctuary, adult choir room and the 3rd floor classrooms in addition to being outside as well. Everyone is required to wear a mask. Snacks were donated, and lunches are taken home this year. The last day will be more of a fun day playing water games, having popsicles and enjoying the last day of VBS. A HUGE thank you to our volunteers for coordinating VBS. We wouldn't be able to do this without their dedication to the kids!

VI. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Chris shared some thoughts from Richard Rohr and Barbara Holmes on navigating crisis and placing hope in what matters and what lasts. Heartland Youth Choir held a Summer Songs Camp at the church this past month. Pastor Chris also shared with Council a pastoral letter from Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Metro Chicago Synod that provided his thoughts that we are not alone in learning to live in a post-pandemic world and that a return to “normal” will be gradual as we try to move forward.
- Pastor Robin reported a summary on the three capital appeal campaigns to assist the Council as they review next steps regarding the remaining mortgage balance.

VII. Old Business

- Health Advisory Team
 - No changes in protocol were recommended by the team at this time. The team will continue to monitor the variant situation in the community.
- Capital Appeal
 - The Finance Committee recommended to Council a one-year “soft” campaign to ask members to continue with what they previously pledged like what was done with general offering for 2021. Council agreed that a three-year campaign or rolling the mortgage fully into the budget for 2022 will not be viable at this time. A \$20,000 amount is already included in the annual budget for the mortgage.
 - A goal may be to state a specific amount to bring the mortgage down to versus a total dollar campaign.
 - A task force will be brought together discuss communications and plan for the soft campaign. People interested in participating should contact Ryherd.

VIII. New Business

- Post-Pandemic Brainstorming
 - Discussion focused on remembrance, mourning and healing but also looking at an event to celebrate our community like a tailgate around October 3 with a rain date of October 10.
 - The Pastors and Worship Committee will work on events surrounding remembrance and in conjunction with All Saints Day.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Monday, August 23, 6:30 PM (in-person)

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Robin shared Paul's letter to the Galatians in closing.

XI. Adjournment

Hirst moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Crum. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

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