

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 27, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Present: Julie Borseth, Pastor Robin Coughenower, Sue Crum, Tony Dahlman, Duane Danielson, Tracey Hirst, Jill Hyda, Pam Lundell, Suzanne Nelson, John Reed, Halley Ryherd, Amanda Shepard-Eakins

Absent: John Ambroson, Jessica Chance, Matt McNamara, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, Samuel Steensen

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Ryherd called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

- Hirst shared about her own faith journey, specifically surrounding the Christmas Eve service and the passage from John. Hirst led the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. 2022 Budget Proposal

Reed moved to approve the 2022 budget and recommend to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Seconded by Borseth. Motion carried.

IV. Secretary's Report

Hirst moved to approve the November 2021 minutes. Seconded by Borseth. Motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report

- Danielson provided the report to Council. November was good month in general offerings. Expenses remain below budget. The Certificate of Deposit was cashed, and payment was sent to the mortgage.

VI. For the Good of the Order

- Borseth thanked Ryherd for leading the Council in 2021.
- Nelson & Reed thanked council during their terms.

VII. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Chris shared an update he was pleased how worship services went over Christmas and the joy to be in-person. Pastor Chris received a call from LSI. As a result, LSI Refugee Services will be using the Parish Hall at WHLC for some group orientations for the first Afghan refugees to arrive in the Des Moines metro community. Ann and Ron Rowland will be coordinating a larger time of learning and raising funds to help refugee families in coming weeks. It is expected be an emphasis during Lent.
- Pastor Robin provided a reflection on the different ways of generosity from the congregation within the community even during the pandemic and with other personal challenges.

VIII. Old Business

- Health Advisory Team
 - The team met this month and reviewed logistics for the Christmas Eve services. COVID testing was reviewed for staff members. Free tests are available. N-95 and KN-95 masks were recommended for the pastors due to spread of the omicron variant.
- Nominating Committee
 - The group will regroup after the new year. One council member has been selected for nomination.

IX. New Business

- Housing Allowances

Council met in Executive Session to discuss personnel related matters.

The Executive Session was closed.

- Lutheran Services of Iowa
 - LSI reached out to Pastor Chris to utilize Parish Hall to help with orientation for Afghan refugees. Ron & Ann Rowland will be coordinating with LSI on support the congregation could provide for refugees.
- Custodial Care
 - Jim Spizale has notified staff that he is retiring from custodian duties. If anyone is aware of a smaller cleaning company or someone interested in performing custodial duties at WHLC, please reach out the pastors.
- Musical Director Appreciation
 - The Executive Committee provided cards and a small gift to the music group directors for their support to provide music during worship in 2021 while navigating through the pandemic.

- Synod Assembly Voting Members
 - This year's Southeast Iowa Assembly is in person in Coralville, May 20-21, 2022. People attending are required to be vaccinated. Volunteers will be sought.
- Saturday Night Worship
 - Attendance at Saturday Night has been very low. The Pastors recommended suspending the service until Easter. Amanda Lauritsen and the ensemble will perform on Sunday services, alternating which Sunday morning service each week.

Dahlman moved to suspend Saturday night services until May 2022. Seconded by Crum. Motion carried.

X. Announcements

- Council Meeting – TBD (likely Monday, January 24, 6:30 PM)

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

XI. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Robin read Psalm 148 in closing.

XII. Adjournment

Lundell moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Hyda
WHLC Council Secretary
December 27, 2021