

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 28, 2022
Room 127

Present: Sharman Blake, Norm Carlson, Jessica Chance, Pastor Robin Coughenower, Sue Crum, Tony Dahlman, Tracey Hirst, Pam Lundell, Matt McNamara, Michael McNamara, Kevin Nicolet, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, Barb Waymire

Absent: Julie Borseth, Jill Hyda, Halley Ryherd

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Dahlman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- Nicolet shared a devotion from the Advent Devotional booklet.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. Secretary's Report

Lundell moved to approve the February 2022 minutes. Seconded by Carlson. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. February was a good month for offering with many congregants providing larger-than-normal offerings at the beginning of the calendar year. We are managing expenses well.

McNamara moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Crum. Motion carried.

V. For the Good of the Order

- Blake discussed a report from a congregant on concerns about cigarette litter from community groups. Staff will continue to monitor litter on the church grounds and contact community groups if necessary.

VI. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Robin shared her experience during a Lenten service with Bishop Current in Ames. She also discussed that the Koinonia Room needs updating, and she will do some research.

- Pastor Chris discussed how it was good to be able to meet in person with the council. The phone system in the church was damaged by lightning and needs to be replaced. The new system will use be fully “voice over internet”, and the phone plan can be changed to one at half the cost. However, this will lead to a more expensive internet plan unless a three-year contract is signed.

McNamara moved to authorize up to \$1500 on a phone system and to authorize a three-year contract with Mediacom for internet services. Seconded by Nicolet. Motion carried.

Pastor Chris shared a request from a ministry group that supports immigrants from Africa, mostly Liberia, for use of space in our church. They would like to use the Parish Hall on Saturdays but could be flexible if it is needed for other events. There could be opportunities to collaborate with these groups. Pastor Chris will continue to work with the group to determine the next steps.

VII. Old Business

- Health Advisory Team
 - Current statistics put us in the low yellow/green category - hooray!
 - The Health Team gave a thumbs-up to returning to hand-to-hand contact during the sharing of the peace, passing offering plates, and having two lines for Communion (need volunteers!).
 - Easter Breakfast is a go, with the caveat that it may be something to reconsider if numbers spike again.
 - Community groups have mostly returned to the use of our church facilities.
- Synod Assembly Representatives
 - A male delegate is still being sought for the Synod Assembly in May.
- Snow Removal
 - We are looking for referrals on a new snow removal service for the 2022-2023 winter season.
- Easter Services and Lenten Activities
 - An adult forum was held last Sunday with Lutheran Services in Iowa discussing refugee resettlement.
 - The next forum will be on May 8 led by Bishop Current.
 - Breakfasts will be served on Easter Monday at 7:30 AM and 9:30 AM. Zach will be leading the youth in coordinating the breakfast. Council members are encouraged to help where they can.
 - The kitchen will be cleaned on April 5. Volunteers are needed.
 - There will be three services on Easter morning at 6:30 AM, 8:30 AM, and 10:45 AM. Helpers are needed. Services will be held on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- Saturday Night Worship
 - The Worship Committee is recommending bringing back Saturday night services and going down to one service on Sunday for the summer.

Nicolet moved that services be held at 5:30 PM on Saturday night and 9:30 AM on Sunday morning starting on Memorial Day weekend and ending on Labor Day weekend. Seconded by McNamara. Motion passed.

VIII. New Business

- Council Terms
 - Pastor Chris shared a document outlining the terms of the council members.
- Bishop Current Visit
 - Bishop Current will be visiting on May 8. Refreshments will be served. The church will provide a gift of a prayer shawl and prayer bracelet.
- Landscaping
 - The council discussed any needed landscaping needs. There are rocky areas on the west side of the church. The northwest corner of the church may also need some work. The elm tree has been pruned. McNamara will make some observations and do some research on possible resolutions.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Monday, April 25, 6:30 PM in-person. Devotions will be led by Norm Carlson.

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Robin closed the group in prayer with a reading from Joshua 5.

XI. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Dahlman
WHLC Council Acting Secretary
March 28, 2022