

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 27, 2022
Room 127

Present: Julie Borseth, Norm Carlson, Pastor Robin Coughenower, Sue Crum, Tony Dahlman, Jill Hyda. Pam Lundell, Matt McNamara, Michael McNamara, Kevin Nicolet, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, Halley Ryherd, Barb Waymire

Absent: Sharman Blake, Jessica Chance, Tracey Hirst

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Dahlman called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.
- Dahlman shared about the community of a church and Proverbs 27:17.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Nicolet moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Carlson. Motion carried.

III. Secretary's Report

Lundell moved to approve the May 2022 minutes. Seconded by Borseth. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. Expenses are being managed well. They are running close to revenues. The Finance Committee recommended to make an additional principal payment of \$50,000 to the mortgage. Contributions towards the building fund remain similar to contributions in 2021. Liquid assets are in a good position.

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

Nicolet moved to accept the Finance Committee's proposal to make a \$50,000 additional principal payment to the mortgage. Seconded by Crum. Motion carried.

V. For the Good of the Order

- Ryherd's *Jeopardy* appearance will be on Wednesday, June 29th.
- WHLC will host an ordination on Sunday, August 14th.
- Lundell updated on Vacation Bible School. Volunteers are still needed.
- Lundell shared a story of a visitor who attended the Saturday outdoor worship service and the welcoming she felt.

VI. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Chris shared about focusing on renewal under worship, scripture, prayer and service. The *Gather* magazine will be more widely available to more women in the congregation as a Bible study resource. Waymire will work on the details and how to publicize.

Ryherd moved to use the restricted Danielson funds received from the WHLC Foundation to purchase for one-year subscriptions for women interested in a subscription. Seconded by Crum. Motion carried.

Pastor Chris talked about Our Hands, God's Work Sunday as part of ELCA's national day of service. Nicolet and Crum will research ideas for service project participation and report back to Council.

Pastor Chris also shared about a non-ELCA missionary doing campus ministry at UNI and looking for support. Campus ministries within the synod are supported by WHLC's gifts to the SE Iowa Synod. An offer to present on their ministry to WHLC in between services this fall will be made.

- Pastor Robin co-led the synod's constitution committee workshop in Iowa City. There may be some updates to WHLC's constitution and/or bylaws, which she will bring forward for approval at the WHLC Annual Meeting. Pastor Robin reported that Elderberries will restart in August, but changes may be needed with the ministry. Pastor Robin also shared duties she will be handling or helping to coordinate while Pastor Chris is on sabbatical

VII. Old Business

- Snow Removal
 - A potential vendor list is being collected. Pastor Chris will ask Chuck Young to call the vendors and request proposals.
- Landscaping
 - Matt McNamara is meeting with the vendor and reviewing recommendations. McNamara will be replacing several of the broken bricks.
- Foundation Funding Requests
 - The Foundation met earlier in June. WHLC will receive \$5,000 from the Foundation for 2022.
- Church Security Drill
 - Blake contacted the Omaha branch of the FBI and is waiting to hear back.
- Review Church Priorities
 - See information under Pastor Chris' report. Council members are asked to continue to brainstorm any additional ideas.

VIII. New Business

- Pastor Chris' Sabbatical

- Pastor Chris will publish an announcement in the *Window*. The sabbatical will be for three months, starting in August.

Crum moved to approve Pastor Chris' sabbatical from August to October 2022. Seconded by Carlson. Motion carried.

The Mutual Ministry committee recommended forming a sabbatical task force. Guest preachers need to be scheduled when Pastor Robin is not preaching and hospitality support. A list of rostered supply preachers is available from the synod. More worship volunteers will be needed to support Pastor Robin and the visiting pastors. Support for the sound system, handling of offering, etc. will be needed. Ryherd, Nicolet, Hyda, Borseth and Pastor Robin will participate on the task force.

- Welcome
 - ReconcilingWorks (formerly Reconciling in Christ) works with congregations on welcoming and full participation for those in the LGBTQIA+ community. There are three Lutheran churches in the metro area that are a RIC Community, including Capitol Hill, St. James and Holy Trinity. This could be an area to further explore for WHLC.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Monday, July 25, 6:30 PM in-person.

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Robin read Psalm 16.

XI. Adjournment

Borseth moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Carlson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Hyda
WHLC Council Secretary
June 27, 2022