

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 25, 2022
Room 127

Present: Sharman Blake, Julie Borseth, Norm Carlson, Tony Dahlman, Tracey Hirst, Jill Hyda, Pam Lundell, Matt McNamara, Kevin Nicolet, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, Halley Ryherd, Barb Waymire

Absent: Jessica Chance, Pastor Robin Coughenower, Sue Crum, Michael McNamara

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

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

- Blake shared a piece from Maria Shriver regarding the Highland Park mass shooting, feeling emotional pain and focusing on the good versus being unphased and numb. Blake led us in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. Secretary's Report

Ryherd moved to approve the June 2022 minutes. Seconded by Hirst. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. Waymire reported that the general offering was significantly under budget for the month of June, but it is a typical time of year where offering is down along with current economic challenges. Waymire highlighted the ability to mail in donations or providing electronically in her monthly piece in the *Window*. The \$50,000 mortgage payment was made. The Finance Committee reviewed Certificates of Deposit rates at different financial institutions due to better rates than Banker's Trust. This will be further reviewed by the committee to move CD's when they have matured.

Lundell moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Blake. Motion carried.

V. For the Good of the Order

- VBS is ongoing this week with many children attending.
- Nicolet reported that Karen Cluts has volunteered to preach once during Pastor Chris' sabbatical as well as supporting in other ways. Paul Axness would like to volunteer to preach most Sundays when Pastor Robin is not available as well.

VI. Pastors' Reports

- Pastor Robin reported she is attending Worship Theology of the Arts at St. Olaf in Northfield, Minnesota. Plans are underway for Tania Schramm's ordination at WHLC on August 14th at 4 PM. Bishop Current will preside. Wednesday evening activities will resume on September 7th. Music ensemble directors met with the pastors to prepare the schedule for the year. Confirmation classes will also begin on the 7th for 7th/8th and 9th grade students.
- Pastor Chris shared he will provide some more thoughts on his sabbatical in the upcoming *Window*. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held in the week of August 8th in Columbus, Ohio. People may view the assembly online.

VII. Old Business

- Snow Removal
 - Dahlman provided names to Chuck Young and Pastor Chris. Chuck will contact three of the provider options and respond with any recommendations. Once a new provider is determined, someone will need to contact the previous provider that WHLC will be using a different provider.
- Landscaping
 - McNamara provided a report to the Council. McNamara explained the variance in the budget and what is covered or not with the current provider. Incremental charges will occur for anything beyond the coverage. Matt & Michael McNamara worked on several of the beds, rock and mulch, especially on the west and the north. Alternate providers for next year should be explored. A couple quotes on fixing the retaining wall were obtained. Work on other beds, rock and edging are needed. Council thanked the McNamara family for all their work.

Blake moved to use the WHLC Foundation grant, the property maintenance permanent fund and/or memorial funds to pay for the landscaping recommendations. Seconded by Nicolet. Motion carried.

- Church Security Drill
 - Blake had contacted the local FBI in the Omaha office earlier this summer with little communication. Then, Blake contacted the Windsor Heights Police Department, and they are willing to provide training along with Polk County Emergency Management members. The session is two hours in length. Blake will further investigate on if there are any fees and targeted audience, so better participation occurs. Council is in consensus to move forward with scheduling and collecting more details.
- Review Church Priorities
 - Women's Advent
 - A sign-up sheet will be circulated in the fall. An idea was to hold a Women's Advent Worship Service at the beginning of Advent with a high-profile speaker.
 - *Gather* Magazine
 - Waymire will have a communication in the E-Weekly and bulletins, as the new year starts in September. Costs will be covered by other funds.

- Day of Service
 - Nicolet and Crum recommended reviewing opportunities for the spring.
- Other Ideas
 - Focus on what does it mean to be Christian and the basics of a Christian community.
- Sabbatical Task Force

Council met in Executive Session to discuss personnel related matters.

The Executive Session was closed.

- Hyda shared that she, Borseth and Chance met with Pastor Robin to review needs for volunteer help during Pastor Chris' sabbatical. Worship hosts will assist with set-up and welcoming the guest pastors during the weekends Pastor Robin is unavailable. Pastor Robin has updated the communion preparer/assistant checklist, which is posted in the sacristy. Hyda prepared a WHLC Worship Host Instruction guide, which will be provided for each host to use. Borseth and Chance will reach out to members of the congregation to help with hosting as well as standard worship needs. A note in the E-Weekly about Worship Hosts will be published for the next several weeks. Nicolet volunteered to host October 9th. Hyda will host August 13/14.

VIII. New Business

- ReconcilingWorks
 - Ryherd provided a general overview to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. There is a 10-step process and setting milestones. There are four end goals. More information on the phases and steps are available on the website: www.reconcilingworks.org. Council is asked to review the website for future discussion and interest led from the congregation.
- Ordination
 - Tania Schram will be ordained at WHLC at 4 PM on Sunday, August 14. Heidi will coordinate with Tania on her wants for the reception. A gift will be purchased from the congregation.

Ryherd moved for Pastor Robin to purchase a gift up to \$100 for ordination. Seconded by Blake. Motion carried.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – August 22, 6:30 PM in-person.

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Chris closed the group in prayer.

XI. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Hyda
WHLC Council Secretary
July 25, 2022