

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 27, 2023
Room 127 & Google Meet

Present: Sharman Blake, Norm Carlson, Tony Dahlman, Tracey Hirst, Jill Hyda, Matt McNamara, Michael McNamara, Bill Morris, Kevin Nicolet, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, Maren Steensen, John Swanson, Barb Waymire

Absent: Julie Borseth

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Nicolet called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

- Hirst shared Psalm 46 and a commentary on the psalm from *Our Daily Bread*. Hirst opened the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. Secretary's Report

Morris moved to approve the February 2023 minutes. Seconded by Carlson. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. There was a strong month in general offering in February with some full-year contributions provided. March offerings are also looking good so far. Strong contributions are occurring to the capital appeal fund as well. Finance Committee recommends making three months of additional mortgage payments.

Dahlman moved to make a \$3,000 payment to the mortgage. Seconded by Swanson. Motion carried.

Hirst moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Swanson. Motion carried.

V. For the Good of the Order

- A thank you was given to the Nicolets on their organization of the Saturday clean-up day and interaction with the Chin Baptist group.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris reported he will be leading the workshop on Christian unity during the first week of May. Pub Theology meets on the third Thursday of each month. Next month the group will meet at Maxie's in West Des Moines. There is a faithful core group of participants and a larger group of those who attend occasionally. As part of the scripture focus, Pastor Axness is going to offer a short course on "How the Bible Came to Be" on Sunday mornings in April and May. Pastor Chris will continue to lead the Pastor's Bible Study every Wednesday evening at 7 PM.

VII. Old Business

- Synod Assembly Delegates
 - Nicolet shared John Reed will be one of the delegates.
- Reconciling in Christ
 - The small group will be registering for the upcoming training.
- Active Shooter Training
 - Several dates were provided on various Wednesday evenings with possibly holding on Wednesday, May 31. Blake will be in contact once the date is confirmed.
- AED Training
 - The Red Cross has been contacted to look at scheduling training in the future.
- Spring Clean-up
 - There was a good mix of individuals, ages, members and non-members. Members of the Chin Baptist participated. There were around 60 individuals helping, and the majority of the tasks were completed. A fall clean-up may be scheduled as well.
- Lawn Care
 - Matt McNamara provided a summary of last year's lawn care, which was on a fixed price contract. Three separate bids for 2023 were shared.

Dahlman moved to prepare a contract with Landscapes by Brett for lawn care and snow removal in the winter. Seconded by Carlson. Matt McNamara abstained. Motion carried.

- Ushers
 - Steensen provided an update. A communication was shared in the E-Weekly to gather volunteers, and several have contacted her about their interest in helping. She is continuing to review options.

VIII. New Business

- Saturday Night Worship
 - Past summer schedules included a worship service on Saturday night and one worship service on Sunday morning. The Saturday services were held outside when possible.

Steensen moved to have one Saturday service at 5 PM outdoors when possible and one Sunday service at 9:30 AM between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Seconded by Blake. Motion carried.

- Foundation Report
 - John Ambrosion will provide the Foundation report in May. Council should come with ideas on requests to the Foundation.
- Brainstorming
 - Pastor Chris shared an article, *Discipleship or Bust: The Church in 2050*, from Scott Gunn, a priest in the Episcopal Church. The institutional church is downsizing everywhere. Buildings used every day of the week are now sitting empty most days. WHLC should be pleased our facility is used every day of the week by a variety of groups. Themes from the article included being a church that “is transforming lives by making disciples” and “increasing diversity among members and all aspects of congregational life.”

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – April 24, 6:30 PM in-person and online option.

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Chris closed the meeting in prayer.

XI. Adjournment

Nicolet adjourned the Council meeting at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Hyda
WHLC Council Secretary
March 27, 2023