

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 22, 2023
Parish Hall & Google Meet

Present: Sharman Blake, Julie Borseth, 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

Guests: John Ambroson

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Nicolet called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

- Borseth shared an excerpt from *Transforming The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* based on the story of the shepherd and the lost sheep. Borseth led the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. WHLC Foundation Report & Business

- The Council meeting was suspended at 6:36 PM for the WHLC Foundation Annual meeting. Ambroson reviewed the objective of the Foundation and provided the 2022 annual report. Yearend 2023 assets were \$527,823 compared to the yearend 2022 asset value of \$702,857.33. For 2023, about \$21,112 will be distributed with funds available to WHLC. Council is to submit a request before the June Foundation meeting with a maximum gift of \$4,222. John Ambroson is the current Foundation president. Tony Dahlman is serving as council liaison. Halley Ryherd was nominated to the board. The board members are John Ambroson, Norm Carlson, Jill Hyda, John Reed, Barb Waymire and Halley Ryherd.

Council approved adjournment of the Foundation Annual meeting.

The Council meeting resumed at 6:42 PM.

IV. Secretary's Report

Swanson moved to approve the April 2023 minutes. Seconded by Hirst. Motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. Two additional \$3,000 mortgage payments were made. A Certificate of Deposit matures this month with plans to renew at an above 4% interest rate.

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

VI. For the Good of the Order

- Blake thanked Pastor Chris for the senior recognition program on Sunday, May 21 in between services.

VII. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris shared about the National Christian Unity workshop held earlier in May in Milwaukee. The "Searching for Meaning" watch party will be held the first three Saturday evenings of June after the 5 PM service. It will also be an opportunity to identify interested individuals who might like to help plan and organize future science and religion events. Jill (Dopf) Viles will have a public presentation in September on her research into a genetic condition that affects her family. Summer worship schedule will start Memorial weekend.

VIII. Old Business

- Synod Assembly Summary
 - John Reed, Kathy McCracken and Pastor Chris participated online for the assembly. Several changes to the synod constitution were made, mainly to keep it in line with the ELCA model constitution. The budget passed reflected a decrease in anticipated mission support from member congregations.
 - The synod revival was held May 20 at Grandview with the theme of imagine. Next year's assembly will be held in Coralville.
- Reconciling in Christ
 - Hirst, Borseth and Pam Lundell participated in a webinar in early May. Around sixty people participated. Hirst is working on a survey for Council and staff to complete electronically. The core team will also complete the survey and discuss the results.
- Active Shooter Training
 - Blake reported the training will be held the evening on May 31 in Parish Hall.
- Lawn Care
 - Matt McNamara shared that the contract is not yet finalized. Some changes are being worked on.
- Foundation Request
 - Nicolet shared numbers for audio/visual package and landscaping work. Nicolet will share the requests with John Ambrosion.

Dahlman moved to request \$1,450 for A/V and \$2,072 for landscaping to the Foundation. Seconded by Blake. Motion carried.

- Facilities Manager Position
 - One of the intentions of the position is to be available for large events at WHLC. Council discussed the frequency of events during a year where support may be needed. Numbers will be gathered for future discussion on the position.
- Garbage Disposal
 - The kitchen disposal is not working. Pastor Chris will contact Chuck Young to gather 2-3 estimates for a replacement.

IX. New Business

- Member Email Discussion
 - Nicolet shared some feedback on worship music.
- Ministry Teams/Committees
 - Pastor Chris will share more information next month.
- Congregational Activity
 - The movie series will be held in June, and a speaker is scheduled for September. Nicolet will compile a list of other activities to share with Council next month.
- Clocks
 - A new clock is needed for Parish Hall and the kitchen. Pastor Chris will ask Chuck Young to purchase the needed clocks.

X. Announcements

- Council Meeting – June 26, 6:30 PM in-person and online option.

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

XI. Reflections & Closing Prayer

- Pastor Chris shared a story about birdsongs being good for our wellbeing and mental health, played a couple songs and shared verses from Psalm 4. Pastor Chris closed the group in prayer.

XII. Adjournment

Nicolet adjourned the Council meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jill Hyda
 WHLC Council Secretary
 May 22, 2023