

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 25, 2023
Room 127 & 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, Barb Waymire

Absent: John Swanson

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

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

- Waymire shared about the season of creation with a devotion, "Letting Your Leaves Fall" and led the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

McNamara moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Steensen. Motion carried.

III. Secretary's Report

Morris moved to approve the August 2023 minutes. Seconded by Borseth. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. August was good, and offerings are running strong to date. Anticipated end-of-year numbers look to be positive. Pastor Chris shared data from an article that last year was only the third year where charitable giving decreased. WHLC is blessed to have such positive giving from the congregation.

Hirst moved to make a \$6,000 payment to the mortgage. Seconded by Blake. Motion carried.

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

V. For the Good of the Order

- Blake shared the nature walk at the arboretum was great and thanked the Steensens and Pastor Chris.
- Blake shared the Blessing of the Animals service will be held this month.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris is attending the fall theological conference for synod rostered leaders in Ames this week. Stewardship will be a focus during service and other activities during November. Council members shared examples and reflection on how the church and ministries have affected them personally.

VII. Old Business

- Jill Dopf Viles Presentation
 - The presentation was well attended, and Jill was very thankful for the opportunity to share her and her family's story.
- Garbage Disposal
 - The wall repair near the sink was completed. The disposal is working.
- Church Sign
 - Nicolet shared an announcement in the E-Weekly and the *Window*. The sign should arrive in the middle of October. Crushed red rock will be placed over the sign location with the current landscaping and plants.
- Maintenance Items
 - The ceiling tile replacement is completed, and the acoustic panel was hung. There are a couple places with touch-up painting and carpet replacement remaining.
- Shelter Meals
 - Waymire updated that 15 families regularly give to this ministry. She will be providing a letter to the families with an update on our ministry. The Finance Committee will review how to handle for the 2024 budget.
- Fall Clean Up
 - Carlson provided an article to Heidi on the upcoming fall clean up day.
- Windsor Heights Fall Festival
 - Steensen contacted the organizers, and WHLC has a booth on October 7 from 2 – 7 PM. Volunteers are needed and should email Steensen with interest.

VIII. New Business

- Nominating Committee
 - Dahlman will be organizing the committee to assist with nominations for new council members at the annual meeting. If there is interest or possible candidates, contact Dahlman.
- Employee Retention Credit
 - Pastor Chris shared the tax credit is being offered to businesses and non-profits to make up for lowered receipts during the pandemic or when facilities were ordered closed by the government. WHLC is eligible for payroll taxes during that period. Finance Committee agrees with pursuing the credit. These funds are set specifically for this program.

Steensen moved to pay \$600 to Bob Joy to file for the employee retention credit. Seconded by Dahlman. Motion carried.

- Joint Thanksgiving Service
 - Windsor Methodist, Windsor Presbyterian and WHLC will have an ecumenical community service on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Windsor Methodist will likely host the service.
- Heartland Youth Choir Request
 - A request was received from the director on space considerations for their use. Pastor Chris will communicate with Heartland on the additional space available. Council is open to exterior signage and wants to review any proposed signage.
- Brainstorming
 - A winter service project will be researched, possibly Meals in the Heartland.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – October 23, 6:30 PM in-person and online option.

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer
Pastor Chris closed the group in prayer.

XI. Adjournment

Nicolet adjourned the Council meeting at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Hyda
WHLC Council Secretary
September 25, 2023