

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

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

Absent: Tracey Hirst, Michael McNamara

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Nicolet called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

- Matt McNamara shared a devotion around giving thanks, especially in challenging times. McNamara led the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. Secretary's Report

Steensen moved to approve the October 2023 minutes. Seconded by Morris. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. October was similar to September. The Finance Committee is pleased with the general offerings. Expenses are under budget.

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

V. For the Good of the Order

- Blake shared the Advent Service is Sunday afternoon with only several open spots left.
- Nicolet thanked Steensen for her article on gratitude and generosity in the E-Weekly.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris shared the amended tax returns have been submitted to the IRS. Pastor Chris encourages everyone to share and review the ELCA page with resources on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and ways to contribute relief. Bishop Eaton was granted an extended leave of absence. Former Bishop Burke has been appointed pro-temp during this time. Steensen, Nicolet and Swanson shared

reflections on gratitude and generosity with the congregation. Pledge cards will be completed on Sunday. Pastor Chris met with Father Raphael Assamah regarding the week of prayer for Christian unity. WHLC will host the service on Thursday, January 25th at 6:30 PM. There will be a fellowship following the service. Pastor Chris asked to keep Hirst in our prayers following the death of Ron as well as several other members dealing with losses. Borseth and Pastor Chris met with the coordinator and principal at Windsor Elementary. Face-to-face opportunities at the school could be offered along with cash donations. Gayla Russell will be baking cookies for the Windsor Elementary staff workday at the end of the semester. Pastor Chris will be meeting with the Personnel Committee regarding compensation budget for staff and music directors for 2024.

VII. Old Business

- Facility Items
 - Carlson will contact Jerry regarding progress on items.
- Shelter Meals
 - Waymire provided a draft letter to Council for review, which will be sent to members who have contributed to the Central Iowa Shelter & Services permanent fund. Waymire contacted the shelter regarding costs for meals. They expect to serve about 400 people per meal in 2024 compared to 300 people in the past. A meal costs around \$500. Waymire will also share a communication to the congregation in January.
- Fall Clean Up
 - Nicolet reported around 25 people helped mainly indoors, which included the Chin Baptist group and WHLC members. The front lawn sign has been torn down to be disposed.
- Nominating Committee
 - None to report.
- Thanksgiving Service
 - The community service on November 19 went very well hosted by Windsor Methodist.
- Heartland Youth Choir Request
 - No additional comments have been received to date.
- Annual Meeting
 - The meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21st with a potluck beforehand. An invitation will be extended to the Chin Baptist group to participate in the potluck.
- December Meeting
 - Council will meet on Wednesday, December 20th at 6:30 PM with a large portion focused on the 2024 budget.

VIII. New Business

- Family Promise Update
 - Morris shared that the board communicated money and volunteers have been tight. The board also shared that December will be the last month for the current program. Morris will share a communication with the congregation.
- Mortgage/Capital Appeal
 - Waymire shared a spreadsheet on contributions made to the Building Fund from 2021 to the present. The current balance in the fund will cover payments through June 2025. The current interest rate is set through the end of March 2025. Tremendous progress has been made to reduce the mortgage by more than scheduled loan amount. Council proposed a summary be shared at the Annual Meeting to educate and remind the congregation on contributions and celebrate the progress made.
- Poinsettia Fundraiser
 - The Worship Committee decided to have donations given to the Urbandale Food Pantry with the Christmas poinsettias.

Dahlman moved to approve a fundraiser for donations to the Urbandale Food Pantry with poinsettias for the Christmas holiday. Seconded by Blake. Motion carried.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – December 20th, 6:30 PM in-person and online option.

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

Pastor Chris shared a poem regarding worry and that choosing not to worry is a choice. Likewise, gratitude is also a choice.

XI. Adjournment

Nicolet adjourned the Council meeting at 7:43 PM.

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