

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Room 127 & Google Meet

Present: Sharman Blake, Norm Carlson, Jill Hyda, Matt McNamara, Michael McNamara, Bill Morris, Kevin Nicolet, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, Maren Steensen, John Swanson, Sally Watson, Barb Waymire, Donna Yeager

Absent: None

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Swanson called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.
- Swanson shared a devotion on a call to volunteer and opened the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. Secretary's Report

Nicolet moved to approve the December 2023 minutes. Seconded by Matt McNamara. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. The month of December was good, which resulted in a positive 2023 with slightly over 103% income compared to budget. Expenses were down compared to 2022. Mortgage is currently at \$682,686. The new Crabtree gift will be applied directly to the principal. A CD will mature in February 2024, and Finance Committee will decide on renewing. The permanent fund for Central Iowa Shelter & Services (CISS) has a balance to donate \$500 per month for meals for the year. Donations will continue to be collected for the CISS fund. Council will review for 2024 disbursements at next month's meeting.

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

V. For the Good of the Order

- A thank you was shared to Matt McNamara and Zach Meyer for their help with snow removal.
- A thank you was shared to Zach Meyer and Pastor Chris for their help with the recent water heater issue.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris shared the week of Prayer for Christian Unity is this week with a service on Thursday at WHLC involving Windsor Methodist, Windsor Presbyterian and St. Theresa's. A water heater started leaking and was damaged with the cold temperatures. Proctor recommended replacement of both water heaters. Insurance will cover replacement of the damaged water heater after the deductible. Lead and asbestos testing will be required before replacement. The sound system also has an issue, which could be related to the sound board. The president-elect position remains vacant, and Council reviewed possibilities to fill. Heartland Youth Choir would like to use the extra room previously proposed by Council once it is restored from the water damage. Lenten donations were discussed. Dinners will be served prior to the Wednesday evening Lenten service.

Watson moved to approve DMARC Food Pantry for the Lenten donation. Seconded by Blake. Motion carried.

- Pastor Chris asked Council to keep open to ideas from the congregation and think about convening capacity.

VII. Old Business

- Snow Removal
 - McNamara shared about challenges with the current snow removal provider and has had discussions on expectations of timing for removal. McNamara will talk further with the provider on clean up with slush from melting. Four snow removal events occurred in January. McNamara is also discussing with the Town Center on previous agreements.
- Maple Tree
 - While the provider was trimming tree branches covering the parking lot lights, the provider noticed the tree was very damaged and will not likely survive in the adjacent resident property. WHLC will reach out to the resident to provide awareness.
- Other
 - The topic of possibly hosting an intern from seminary may be further discussed in the future.
 - An additional contribution to the synod will be reviewed in February.

VIII. New Business

- New Council Members
 - New members were welcomed and thanked for providing their resources.
- Secretary & Treasurer Appointments
 - Hyda and Waymire were appointed by Swanson for the Secretary and Treasurer positions, respectively.
- Crabtree Gift
 - An additional \$95,000 gift was received from the Crabtree trust.

Morris moved to use the Crabtree gift towards the mortgage. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

- Melvin Nielson Future Gift
 - Mel recently passed and left a gift to the church. The estate is currently in probate.
- Devotions
 - A sign-up was circulated.
- Care & Nurture Committee
 - Marilyn Penberthy and Jan Grannes are no longer going to lead this team and their efforts. Individuals who may be interested in this work should reach out to Marilyn and Jan.
- Other
 - The next synod assembly will be held in May in Coralville.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – February 27th, 6:30 PM in-person and online option.

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

Pastor Chris closed the group with a prayer about Christian unity.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda
January 23, 2024