

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

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

Absent: Quent Boyken, Bill Morris

Visitors: None

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Swanson called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

- Waymire shared *Listening to God's Call Within Yourself* and a passage from John 1:43-51. Waymire opened the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Two additions were added to new business. Nicolet moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

III. Secretary's Report

Matt McNamara moved to approve the June 2024 minutes. Seconded by Yeager. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. Financial statements are stable. The Mel Nielsen estate gift is reported in the June statement. The Central Iowa Shelter & Services (CISS) contribution of \$4,000 has been made year-to-date. Contributions continue to be received into the CISS permanent fund.

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

V. For the Good of the Order

- Blake shared that Vacation Bible School was a huge success and many thanks to Zach Meyer.
- Michael & Matt McNamara shared their enjoyment attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. They thanked Zach Meyer for all his work and engagement with the gathering. The group volunteered at a local school to help clean and created new outside activities. The group will be sharing more with the congregation on their trip.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris reported he was on vacation the past week and will be on vacation the week of August 8th. Vacation Bible School was the main event in July. Pastor Chris described a renewal in worship and fellowship that can lead to additional cohesion with the congregation. The season of creation will be the worship theme in September. The Reconciling in Christ Bible study will begin in October with a review of scripture that shapes our thinking and ethics around human sexuality. Some thought has also been given to a retreat around different themes such as anxiety & worry in conjunction with faith. There is a new Windsor Elementary School Community Leader, and Windsor is looking forward to furthering the relationship with WHLC. Pastor Chris also shared Southeast Iowa Synod Council voted to remove Lutheran Church of Hope from the ELCA roster of churches, as their constitution was not in compliance with ELCA provisions as well as pastoral staff calls outside the roster and full ecumenical agreements. The decision was mutual between the synod and Lutheran Church of Hope.

VII. Old Business

- Vivien Wells Memorial
 - Anderson shared visuals of the bench selected. The flowering Crabtree will be between 15-18 feet tall, and Council members will look at a proper place for planting and ensure not in space usually used for snow removal. The tree would be planted in the fall. The family will move forward with both items.

Nicolet moved to approve the bench, which will be bolted to the ground, and a plaque. The plaque visual will be submitted to Council for approval prior to purchase. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

- Alleluia Choir Director
 - Two candidates will be interviewed by the search committee on Thursday.
- Bylaws Review
 - A review and discussion will occur at a future Council meeting.
- Fall Worship Service Schedule
 - Feedback received was shared. A 9:30 AM worship time was selected with a balance between an early and late service time.
- December Council Meeting
 - The December meeting falls on Christmas Eve.

Matt McNamara moved to approve the reschedule of the December Council meeting to Thursday, December 19th. Seconded by Carlson. Motion carried.

- Reconciling in Christ (RIC)
 - Lundell shared the ministry team will be meeting. Several will also be meeting with St. John's Lutheran staff to further gather information on their RIC path. A communication will be in the September *Window*. The Varsity will be showing a documentary called *1946 The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture* with a panel discussion to follow on Sunday, July 28th.

VIII. New Business

- Water-Related Issues
 - The north stairwell behind the nursery has rainwater leaking. Some mortar is damaged along the Crabtree Parish Hall wall. Vendors will be looking at both issues.
- Other
 - School Supplies Drive
 - Blake shared a drive will be started for the school year with a ministry team. Windsor Elementary will have their Meet the Teacher night on August 19th. Communication will be placed in the E-Weekly.
 - Landscaping
 - Matt McNamara reported a top dress for the mulch, some crushed red brick and additional plants is needed. An estimate of \$1,500 was provided. Around \$900 will come from the WHLC Foundation gift.

Yeager moved to approve up to \$1,500 for purchases for landscaping. Seconded by Anderson. Motion carried.

- Kitchen Range
 - Steve & Kathy McCracken have donated a range for the kitchen. Help with pick-up and removal of the old one is needed. The old one still works and could be used.
- Windsor Heights Fall Festival
 - The event will be held on October 5th. Steensen volunteered to help with a ministry team. Lundell will talk with Zach Meyer as well.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – August 27, 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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda
July 23, 2024