

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 27, 2024
Room 127 & Google Meet

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

Absent: None

Visitors: Zach Meyer

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Swanson called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM.

- Watson shared about our call to serve in the world and a reading from Matthew 25. Watson opened the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

One item was added to the agenda under For the Good of the Order. Morris moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Carlson. Motion carried.

III. Secretary's Report

Nicolet moved to approve the July 2024 minutes. Seconded by Yeager. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. Expenses are below budget. The mortgage is now under \$400,000. A Certificate of Deposit matured and was renewed at a good interest rate.

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

V. For the Good of the Order

- Vacation Bible School & Youth Gathering Report
 - Youth Gathering Recap
 - This is the first gathering in 6 years. Ten people from WHLC (5 adults, 5 students) attended. The gathering was held in New Orleans with the theme *Created to Be*. The attendance was 16,000 and was around half from the last gathering in 2018. There were three rotation days: accompaniment, interactive learning and synod day. Mass gathering and worship was held at the Smoothie King Center. The group volunteered at an elementary school and helped clean rooms and painted outdoor

activities for the students. WHLC's Youth Gathering Sunday is September 29th, and students will take an active role in readings, prayers and more. The next gathering will be held in 2027 in Minneapolis.

- Vacation Bible School
 - The theme was Camp Firelight and all-day camp. The number of students was 98 with many volunteers supporting the week's efforts. The largest group attending was youth in the community. Seventy-two boxes of cereal were donated to DMARC during the week.
- Blake thanked the volunteers for food and the services at both funerals this month.
- Blake shared the school drive was a big success, and the supplies were delivered to Windsor Elementary. They were very thankful for all the supplies. In addition, many monetary donations will be used towards their future book drive.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris reported the season of creation starts in September and will be a focus. The contemplative nature walk will occur September 14th at the Brenton Arboretum. The Wednesday evening schedule starts again the first week of September. New members will be received September 8th. Confirmation will occur September 29th. Jan and the Praise Band will alternate most Sundays, and more than one music group may participate in the same service. A local artist will feature his paintings at the church in September.

VII. Old Business

- Alleluia Choir Director
 - Eric Mohlis will start as the new Alleluia Choir.

Council confirmed the appointment of Eric through a vote.

- December Council Meeting
 - The meeting will be held on December 19th at 6:30 PM.
- Facility Repairs
 - Swanson reported monitoring is continuing of the north door and water leakage.
 - A leak was fixed over the flat roof.
 - The front awning was repaired.
 - The new bench outside the main doors was installed.
 - Other items are being monitored or scheduled, including several downspouts, the elm tree, and painting of the parking lot.
- Reconciling in Christ (RIC)
 - Swanson, Lundell and Watson met with a member from St. John's Lutheran. The ministry team is now at fourteen. Bible study and a conversation will occur in October.

- Bylaws Review
 - Boyken led Council in a review for updates to the bylaws. The revised bylaws would be voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
 - Removed that council members start their term on January 1. Changed annual meeting time.
 - Removed the requirement of a one-year lapse between terms of council members.
 - Changed council may request written or oral reports for the annual report.
 - Officer term changes.
 - Meetings by audio and video meetings along with alignment to the Iowa Code.
 - Addition of ministry teams.
 - Standing committees remain: Finance, Personnel, Memorial.
 - New section on Temporary Committees which would include Call & Nominating committees.

VIII. New Business

- Fall Cleanup
 - A recommendation was made to select a date in October.
- Nominating Committee
 - Volunteers will be needed to serve on the committee or serve on Council. Three positions will be open on Council in addition to the Youth representative and President-elect.
- Other
 - Steensen shared more information on the contemplative nature walk and worship on September 14th from 3 – 6 PM. The space has been reserved. Carpooling will be available at the church.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – September 24, 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 composed by Pope Francis for the start of the season of creation.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda
August 27, 2024