

**WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Congregation Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 28, 2025**  
**Room 127 & Google Meet**

**Present:** Marc Anderson, Quent Boyken, Stephanie Cox, Megan Gerasch, Threase Harms, Jill Hyda, Pam Lundell, Bill Morris, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, John Swanson, Sally Watson, Barb Waymire, Donna Yeager

**Absent:** Linda Anderson, Finn Cox, Maren Steensen

***We Gather in God's Name***

I. Call to Order

- Boyken called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
  
- Boyken shared a devotion from Joshua 1:9 and opened the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

An item was added to the agenda.

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

III. Secretary's Report

Swanson moved to approve the December 2024 minutes. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. The December general offering was strong. For the year, it was 102.4% compared to the budget. Finance Committee recommended the additional \$1,000 to the synod will be from the Global & Community Action line with no changes needed to the proposed 2025 budget numbers. A communication will be placed in the E-Weekly. The Finance Committee will meet next month to review the mortgage with an arm adjustment in April. The committee will bring options and recommendations to Council prior to April. A donation of \$800 per month was made to Central Iowa Shelter & Services in 2024. Waymire will provide a proposal for 2025 donations.

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

V. For the Good of the Order

- Yeager reported she closed out the WELCA account with funds now in a WHLC permanent fund and an opening balance of approximately \$6,300.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris shared WHLC's governing documents. A review of four focus areas on Worship, Service, Scripture and Prayer were discussed. A request from the Lutheran Churches of Liberia was received for donations of worship items no longer used. The worship committee will review supplies that may be available for donation. Pastor Chris shared several groups to follow on social media or newsletters regarding advocacy and ministries needing support. A letter was received with a \$289 check from the ELCA charitable gift annuity for Vivien Wells. It will be placed in unrestricted funds – estate gifts.

VII. Old Business

- Employee Retention Tax Credit
  - About \$35,000 has been received to date. Three applications remain outstanding, which should include \$52,000.

VIII. New Business

- General Information
  - Boyken shared Council contact information. Updates were provided.
- Bylaws Review
  - Boyken shared the bylaw sections that apply to duties of Council members.
- Appointments
  - Boyken appointed the Secretary and Treasurer positions.

Harms moved to accept the appointments by the president for Jill Hyda as Secretary and Barb Waymire as Treasurer. Seconded by Swanson. Motion carried.

- Funeral Luncheon Guidelines
  - Anderson and Blake developed guidelines, and they were shared for Council's information.
- Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team
  - Lundell shared the team met last week. Learning opportunities will occur in February during Sunday's Fellowship & Education time. A Bible study will be held in April, and speakers will be engaged for May.
- Thrivent Choice Permanent Fund
  - The fund includes around \$3,000. Further review and discussion will occur by Council regarding use of these funds.
- Global Refuge Donation
  - Due to decreasing funds and resources from the federal government either occurring now and likely to occur in the future for refugee resettlement, there is an increased need for donations. A surplus occurred for 2024. A proposal was made to use some of the surplus for immediate donation. Communications to the congregation will be placed regarding the needs of Global Refuge and Lutheran Services of Iowa resettlement program.

Watson moved to use \$3,500 from the retained earnings to donate to Global Refuge. Seconded by Harms. Motion carried.

- Other
  - The synod assembly will occur on May 17 at Grandview University in Des Moines. WHLC will have two delegates. If you have interest in the assembly, let Boyken or Pastor Chris know.
  - Lundell shared the Parish Education Committee is looking for new individuals to participate and invited members to participate.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 6:30 PM

***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 8:00 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda  
January 28, 2025