

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Room 127 & Google Meet

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

Absent: John Swanson, Finn Cox

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Boyken called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

- Gerasch shared a devotion from a piece called The Waffle Problem and opened the meeting in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

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

III. Secretary's Report

Harms moved to approve the February 2025 minutes. Seconded by Morris. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. February was another strong income month. Waymire expects in the next two weeks to receive what the new mortgage payment will be from the Mission Investment Fund.

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

V. For the Good of the Order

- Council wished Pastor Chris a happy birthday with birthday treats.
- Lundell shared VBS is July 7-10, and 25 kids and 9 volunteers have already signed up. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris shared provided Rowan Williams' book, Being Christian, to Council. He asked Council to read the first chapter for the next Council meeting. WHLC contributed \$66,499.96 in 2024 to mission support with the Southeastern Iowa Synod. Pastor Chris shared a short piece on practicing hospitality, forgiveness, reconciliation by the Sikh activist and author, Valerie Kaur.

VII. Old Business

- Employee Retention Tax Credit
 - No new updates.
- Spring Clean-Up
 - Clean-up will be held on April 12th. An announcement is in the Weekly Window.
- Synod Assembly
 - The assembly will be held on May 17th.

Harms moved for Bill & Amy Morris to serve as WHLC delegates. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

- Council Check-In Calls
 - Anderson shared a template to use for calls. Lists have been provided to Council, and members will start calls this month.
- Central Iowa Shelter & Services Meal Support
 - Gerasch shared up the costs are \$844 to support a meal for 250 people with Central Iowa Shelter & Services. Communication will be shared with the congregation on how to support in April. Harms shared CISS covers three cities, which does not include Windsor Heights. More homeless population has moved towards Windsor Heights & Clive due to Des Moines' new policy on homeless camps. CISS is looking to provide ideas to surrounding communities on how to work with the homeless population.
- Reconciling in Christ
 - Lundell provided an update from the ministry team. Bible study will occur in April. An update will be shared on what WHLC has done and where we are at in the Weekly Window. In May, visitors will share their experiences. The movie 1946 will be shown in the summer, and in the fall, there will be a focus on the ELCA social statement.

VIII. New Business

- Exterior Maintenance
 - Parking Lot Repainting – Quotes will be sought.
 - Outside West Sanctuary Wall Painting – Staff will ask Jerry Jenkins if he is able to complete.
- Pews & Accessibility
 - Council is reviewing the possibility of shortening a couple more pews to allow for handicap accessibility. Some further discussion will occur with others about accessibility.
- Facility Use
 - Anderson shared comments from members about Heartland Youth Choir utilization of the facilities at no cost and is WHLC being equitable amongst groups. Pastor Chris provided background on the arrangement and shared Family Promise moved to Faith Lutheran when we removed the parsonage and

did not include additional requirements which would have been needed in the construction of the addition. In return, WHLC began hosting Heartland Youth Choir in our facility. Heartland has provided a free will donation in the past, but the amounts were not immediately known. The Chin Baptist and Easter Seals are also not charged a facility use rate, but the Chin Baptist contribute free will offerings. More information will be gathered, and discussion occurred about a policy.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 6:30 PM

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

Pastor Chris closed the group in prayer around the Annunciation of Our Lord.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda
March 25, 2025