

WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 27, 2025
Room 127 & Google Meet

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

Absent: Threase Harms

Visitors: John Reed

We Gather in God's Name

I. Call to Order

- Boyken called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.
- Lundell led the group with a devotion about foolishness by Frederich Buechner and opened the meeting in prayer.

II. WHLC Foundation Report & Business

- The Council meeting was suspended at 6:38 PM for the WHLC Foundation Annual meeting. Reed shared the purpose of the Foundation. The Foundation ended 2024 with approximately \$740,000 in assets and will distribute 4% of these assets for 2025. The 2025 total disbursement will be approximately \$29,600, which is an increase from 2024. Boyken will submit a request to Reed for the WHLC portion of the disbursement. The Foundation is working on a rebalance with their financial planner. John Reed is current Foundation president. John Swanson is serving as council liaison. The board members are John Ambroson, Norm Carlson, Tony Dahlman, Lori Nicolet, Ken Popken and John Reed.

Morris moved to ratify the directors of the Foundation. Seconded by Watson. Motion carried.

Council approved adjournment of the Foundation Annual Meeting.

The Council meeting resumed at 6:51 PM.

III. Approval of the Agenda

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

IV. Secretary's Report

Watson moved to approve the April 2025 minutes as corrected regarding facility use. Seconded by Linda Anderson. Motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. The response from members was strong, and over \$6,300 will be donated to Lutheran Services of Iowa. Income appears to be coming in earlier in the year than previous years. Expense management has been excellent.

Swanson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Linda Anderson. Motion carried.

VI. For the Good of the Order

- Lundell shared updates on VBS.
- Linda Anderson asked about the music schedule for the summer. Amanda Lauritsen leads music worship on Saturdays.
- Linda Anderson also brought forward on a question regarding gifts and acknowledgment. Pastor Chris explained worship items are typically blessed for worship furnishings. Regarding acknowledgments of gifts, there is not a set policy, as it depends on a donor's preference. A continuing resolution is in place when gifts are named.

VII. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris is exploring possibly including a meal after a Saturday evening worship and have discussions on advocacy. WHLC donated unused communion trays and some metal chalices, patens, and host boxes for the Lutheran Church in Liberia, where there is a need for these items. In addition, WHLC purchased and donated an additional set of communion trays using a gift of \$300 that we received from the estate of Vivien Wells. Confirmation ended on May 21, and Pastor Chris was grateful to share the time with three lovely, smart, funny, and insightful young people.
- Council discussed Chapter 2 focused on the Bible from *Being Christian* by Rowan Williams.

VIII. Old Business

- Employee Retention Tax Credit
 - No update.
- Synod Assembly
 - Bill and Amy Morris served as WHLC's delegates. Morris will provide additional communication in the *Weekly Window* and will also share more details about the experience at next month's Council meeting.
- Council Check-In Calls
 - Council members have made calls to congregation members. Additional reflections and feedback were shared and discussed.

Morris moved to ask the Elderberries attendees if there is a new name preferred for the group. Seconded by Lundell. Motion did not carry. Conversation continued on how to reach out and welcome new retirees to the group.

- Central Iowa Shelter & Services Meal Support
 - The permanent fund remains at around \$2,500.
- Reconciling in Christ
 - Lundell shared the spring sessions on Bible study and speakers were well received. Plans for summer and fall are being discussed.
- Maintenance/Property Issues
 - Parking lot repainting
 - Repainting occurred and were color coded. Yellow lines indicate where the Town Centre is allowed to park. The white lines show where the Town Centre tenants are not allowed to park.
 - Sanctuary Westside Painting & Exterior Wood Trim
 - This work will be done by Jerry Jenkins.
 - Pew Shortening
 - A quote was received should this work move forward.
 - 66th Street Sidewalk
 - The city of Windsor Heights said the sidewalk needs to be replaced next to the eastside drive and increased in size from three feet to four feet. Linda Anderson will reach out to a contractor for further discussion on a possible quote.
- Facility Use Issues
 - Building Use Policy & Fee Charge Schedules
 - The WHLC policy was reviewed and compared to other policies from several metro-area school districts. The policy is aligned with current rates used by other comparable facilities.
 - Heartland Youth Choir
 - Boyken provided information on rental fees and history on facility use. Lundell shared information on the scholarships Heartland offers to students to participate based on her time on the board. Pastor Chris reported Heartland has given between \$1,000-1,500 every year since 2019. Council thanked Boyken for all the information gathered. Council will review and discuss at next month's meeting.

IX. New Business

- WHLC Foundation Funds
 - WHLC will receive \$5,920 from the Foundation in 2025.

Watson moved to designate the \$5,920 for sidewalk replacement, and should not all funds be used for replacement, the remaining amount will be donated to Central Iowa Shelter & Services. Further, Council recommends the Foundation's additional \$2,000 available for disbursement be directed towards Central Iowa Shelter & Services. Seconded by Gerasch. Motion carried.

- Maintenance/Property Issues
 - Interior Window Cleaning
 - A team is needed to complete cleaning before fall.
 - Interior Painting Projects
 - Boyken asked if someone is willing to look for areas that require new paint. Watson and Yeager will review the interior for needs.
 - Parish Hall Water Pipe
 - A cover for the pipe may be sought.
- Windsor Heights City Events
 - Several events being held in the summer were shared. If there is interest in participating in an event and leading a group, let Boyken know. WHLC has a tent available to use at events.
- Parking Lot Issues
 - The Town Centre management will be sending an email to the tenants about the parking lot.

X. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 6:30 PM

We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission

XI. Reflections & Closing Prayer

Pastor Chris closed the group with a reading from 1 John 14 and a prayer.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda

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