

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes – September 5, 2024

Called into community, gifted to serve.

Glorifying God through love in action.

Present: Pastor Aileen Robbins, Jeff Gerstenberger, Laurie Simonson, Sheri Treadwell, Amy Trichanh, Paul Williams, Mark Sutliff, Andy Mitchell, Brianna Dauphinee, Jan Pios, and Jim Hartmann. We met via Zoom.

Devotions and Opening Prayer – Andy led interactive devotions based on a verse from Proverbs; acting like gardeners and not engineers. Andy also started our meeting in prayer.

Jeff led the meeting.

Agenda Review – No new additions to the agenda were made.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 4, February 8, May 9, July 25, - none were available for review yet.

With the expectation that Julie Gerstenberger will become Treasurer in 2025, we are looking for someone to replace her for doing payroll.

Financial Reports

- Andy sent the July reports; however, the August data is not complete. We discussed the July Account Activity, Income & Expense Statement, and Balance sheet. Andy has a new awesome Finance Team in place.

The reports indicate that Income is down 5% from the projected budget and usage is up 3%. This could be more than just a summer slump. We need to pay attention to this trend. We could possibly use the designated funds for the food ministry prior to using the budgeted funds. Andy will put the financial information in the Herald. Previously we had reports of the Memorial Fund, Andy will send that information in the future also.

Ministry Team Reports

- Adult Faith Formation Team - Extended Report - Jan Pios sent a written report after contacting each of the Faith Formation team leaders. Jan reviewed the detailed descriptions of each team and their activities:
 1. Hope for the Journey
 2. Beyond the Bend
 3. Ripples of Wellness
 4. Spiritual Growth
 5. Stephen Ministry
 6. Bible Study

Hope for the Journey is a bereavement ministry and they have requested finances for Journeying Through Grief Booklets that are sent to families of loved ones who have died, for the first year of their loss. There has been a great deal of need.

- Property Team - Paul said the new vinyl lawn sign that Matt Robbins designed and council approved is now up. The cost was \$1,300 which is \$300 more than expected. The Town of Greece filled in a hole in the lawn due to erosion. Honey bees are a serious issue; they are located in the highest part of the church. The Town and Country technician said there are between 10,000 and 30,000 bees in the wall. We discussed three options and chose the mid-level, longer term option that eliminates the bees and seals up the gap. The cost of this process and the special equipment to reach the roof peak is estimated at \$6,500 - \$7,000.

Note: Mark exited the meeting after the Property Report

Other Business

- Reconciling Works update - Sheri and the team met and extended our mission statement by adding a sentence. Sheri will do a temple talk and there will be an update to the slide in our "Intro Loop" PowerPoint. We will have the reconciling statement affirmed during the annual meeting so that the congregation understands more deeply what this commitment means. We could hold an awareness fundraiser to make the statement more action than just language. The council voted on the new statement: Andy made the motion to accept the newly worded Reconciling Statement. Jim seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
- Website update - Did not meet because of team availability.
- Stephen Ministry Training - will start soon.
- Harassment Prevention Training - The policy goes beyond just employer/employee relationships. It included the congregation and visitors. Training should include everyone, including council and the scout leadership.
- Council Nomination Committee - Andy, Sheri, Mark, and Jan are up for re-election. Both Andy and Sheri said they would stay on council.
- Mutual Ministry - The updated Harassment Prevention Policy will be sent to council members to approve at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Council Meeting – October 10, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
 Extended ministry report - Stewardship
 MELC Policies update
 Devotions and prayer - Paul

Closing Prayer – Andy closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson