

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes – October 10, 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, and Jan Pios. Jim Hartmann was absent. We met via Zoom.

Devotions and Opening Prayer – Paul led interactive devotions focused on family dynamics. Paul also opened our meeting in prayer.

Jeff led the meeting.

Agenda Review – No additions made.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 4, February 8, May 9, July 25, September 5 - none were sent out yet.

Financial Reports – Andy

The August and September 2024 reports were sent to council members. The YTD cash flow was reported in the last Herald. There is a significant deficit (about \$8,000).

- YTD Cash flow - We discussed ways to handle this issue with the 2025 annual budget, an example is to run leaner.

The finance team suggested that we move the Food Ministry's \$3,000 budgeted funds to offset the \$8,000 deficit because we have received about \$14,000 in designated funds. This was a long discussion which included the Grocery Run and Thrivent contributions. We will post the deficit data in the Herald, it might positively impact the Stewardship Campaign. Our income continues to be under budget and that is a concern. We decided to leave the budget as it is currently for transparency and wait until December to possibly move the \$3,000 based on our cashflow for the year. We looked at the Youth Gathering budget and decided to suspend those monthly transfers for the remainder of the year.

- Bee Eradication Funding - Paul explained the bee problem and the quote we have for \$6,299. We made a motion to use up to \$10,000 for bee elimination from the Greater Messiah Fund. Andy made the motion and Amy seconded it. The vote was unanimous.
- As a result of the congregational meeting's discussion of CD interest rates, the finance team is working on moving the two CNB CDs to Vanguard; one will mature in one year and the other in 2 years. They will likely have 4% and 3.85 interest rates.

Ministry Team Reports

- Stewardship Team - Extended Report - Jim was absent, however, the meeting notes from the October 8 were distributed. Pastor Aileen told us the theme of the 2024 Stewardship Campaign is "Our Treasures". There will be temple talks on October 27, November 3, and November 10. In lieu of a Time and Talent survey this year, Joanne will create a "Treasures" questionnaire.
- Property Team - The cost of the bee problem solution was quoted at \$6,299, however, there might be complications. No chemicals will be used inside the church. 9/27/24 was the annual

window cleaning. The budget was \$400 and the actual cost was \$418. The cost increased from the 2022 rate of \$380. The water heater in the small boiler room leaked and it was necessary to replace it. The cost to replace and install a new water heater was \$600 which is 1/3 the cost because the old one was under warranty and the sales receipt was provided. New shrubs will be planted.

- Mutual Ministry Team - proposed an employee bereavement policy. Council discussed the proposed policy. Sheri made the motion to adopt the new policy as written, Brianna seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
- The Mutual Ministry Team also proposed policy document updates to the Harassment Prevention Policy. The Finance Team proposed some financial policy language changes for the designated funds. Some short descriptions were added for transparency; some funds were eliminated and some funds were combined. The room rental rate increased for oven usage. Life insurance policy designated funds will not be accepted if MELC is required to pay the premiums. Paul made the motion that all these policy changes be made, Laurie seconded the motion and this was passed unanimously.

Other Business

- Reconciling Works update - No comments received after last month's change to our welcoming statement.
- Website update - The website team met on 9/29 to discuss the repair and update of the current website. They hope to have a demo with a new church template to present to Pastor Aileen and the rest of the website team in about a month. Dave Best will update the council member names and update the Reconciling in Christ Statement.
- Discipleship Workshop - A doodle survey will be sent out.
- Membership role update - Pastor sent out a list for us to review, including a proposed letter to be sent to absent members. The letter includes information regarding the Stephen Ministry and other interesting opportunities.
- RocUbuntu event - There will be a walk to support Coffee Connection which is a group that provides job training for previously incarcerated women. It will be a 1- mile walk starting at MELC on November 3.
- Harassment Prevention Training - This will include employees, council members, scout leaders and is open to anyone who wants to attend. It should take about 1.5 hours on a Saturday in November.
- Council Nominating committee - Brianna and Mark volunteered to be the two council members on this committee. Jeff will ask Cathy to publish an announcement for congregation representatives.

Next Meeting

Council Meeting – November 7, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Extended ministry report - Worship & Music
Devotions and prayer - Sheri

Closing Prayer – Paul closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson