

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes – November 7, 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. Andy Mitchell joined us late to discuss the Financial 2025 Budget spreadsheet. We met via Zoom.

We had a team check in.

Devotions and Opening Prayer – Sheri led devotions with a subject of comfort, wisdom, mercy and unity. Sheri started our meeting with prayer.

Jeff led the meeting.

Agenda Review – No additions made.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 4, February 8, May 9, July 25, September 5, and October 10; Paul made the motion to approve the September 5 and October 10 Council Meeting minutes, Jim seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously.

Ministry Team Reports

- Worship and Music Team – Extended Report - Brianna sent a written report with a detailed overview of the past year and included plans for Christmas Eve and the First Sunday after Christmas. Brianna explained the 2025 goal which will build on the theme of inclusion, with African American History month events and Pride Sunday as some examples. We will use the Sanctified Art resource for Advent, and a Lessons and Carols brunch service. We discussed the Lessons and Carols brunch service; it will be catered by Coffee Connections. How will this be accessible for the Zoom participants?
- Property – Paul asked about when his team should decorate for Advent and Christmas. The property team will put the blue wreathes up on the front doors and the tree up on December 7 so they will be up for the Angel Tree party on December 14. Paul is concerned about the high cost of our Frontier phone bill; he asked for assistance determining the purpose of the 8 lines in effort to cut expenses. Jim and Jeff said they will check previous research and let the property team know what information we have. The VRF Central Controller needs replacement and the current quote is \$6,037.40. It is not necessary, but would enable us to track usage and would be easier to program the 17 units. It is not critical, however, would be nice to have.

Financial Reports – Andy is traveling; however, he joined us to illustrate his 2025 Budget spreadsheet with individual tabs for each ministry. Paul asked if some Property line items could be broken out, Jeff will check with Julie, however, for historical purposes, we might need to keep account 5254. If Sheri needs funds added to the 2025 Budget, she can let Andy know. Andy left the meeting.

- Jeff took over the financial report discussion and review of the documents which were distributed. We did get (2) \$80K CDs; one 1 year at 4.05% and the second for 2 years at 3.8%.

We will have a much higher rate of return after this change. Even with a \$900 penalty from moving the funds this is a better investment.

The finance team sent an updated Income and Expense Report to correct an error in tracking our expenses in PowerChurch. This was done so this revised report best mirrors the information provided in our annual meeting report. YTD Operating Expense report is now more in line with our operating budget. Our expenses are actually \$15,891 below the 2024 budget. There continues to be a cash flow deficit of about \$25K.

Other Business

- Website update – No update.
- Membership role update – The list will be re-evaluated and the letter from Pastor Aileen will be sent out after Christmas.
- Discipleship Workshop – Instead of one longer meeting, there will be a 2-hour, quarterly series starting February 1. Stephen Ministry training will be used as part of the training material. The workshops will potentially impact leadership in all areas of life. Topics include listening and communication, living your vocation, grief, how to pray, and how to read scripture. The workshops will be open to everyone in the congregation.
- Council Nomination Committee update and selection of chair – Mark, Jan, Judy Merritt-Speed, and Reggie Renz comprise the committee. Mark volunteered to be the chair. Jeff will schedule a short meeting of this nominating committee. The list that this committee generates will also go to Jeff so he can bring the recommendations to council for approval at the December meeting.
- Harassment training – This will be on Saturday, November 16th. Council members are encouraged to attend. The training is open to everyone and there is a sign-up sheet on the communications board, or people may call Cathy to sign up. Paul said one of the scout leaders will attend.
- Andy has scheduled a budget input meeting after the church service on Sunday, November 17 in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza will be provided, please let Andy or Cathy know if you are attending so there is enough pizza.
- Council members should submit the staff evaluations as soon as possible. The deadline is Sunday.

Next Meeting

Harassment Prevention Training – Saturday, November 16th, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Council Meeting – December 5, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Extended ministry report – none (due to budget planning)

Devotions and prayer - Laurie

Closing Prayer – Sheri closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson