

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes – April 11, 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, Jim Hartmann, Andy Mitchell, Brianna Dauphinee. Julie represented Finance because Brad Roberts stepped down 4/1/24.

We met via Zoom.

**Devotions and Opening Prayer** – Mark led interactive devotions based on the theme of Isaac and the awaking of the Spring season. He opened our meeting in prayer.

Jeff led the meeting.

**Agenda Review** – Mark requested we add a Food Ministry Item to the agenda; and Paul wanted to add time for Property also.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 7 minutes were approved. Still need February 4 and 8<sup>th</sup> minutes.

**Financial Reports** - 2024- and 2023 Year End Reports: There are continued reporting delays because of health and family issues. There have been improvements in the process and report structure and more work is needed. Julie asked for feedback and asked what reports the council wants to see in the future. Julie presented the 2023 Balance Sheet, The Oct-Dec 2023 Account Activity and the Jan-Dec 2023 Income and Expense Statement. We discussed questions that came out of the Annual Meeting and will move towards making fund transfers more transparent and easier to understand. The balance sheet will be cleaned up and have different categories. Pastor will work with the Synod regarding her compensation, so it does not impact the reports. Julie investigated how much we had invested in CD's and explained a church entity does not have the same options for CDs as individuals. The funds we have in CD's don't have great interest, however, we are not making any changes currently.

We reviewed the income and expenses for each of the ministries. We had more assets in 2023 than in 2022. The year 2023 ended better than the year before. We discussed several allocation options and we unanimously voted to move assets to the Concord Fund.

Janet will update the 2023 annual report. Pastor Aileen will send a letter explaining the options of how to obtain the final 2023 annual report final financial reports by mail or picked up at church.

**Ministry Team Reports**

- Pastor Aileen Extended Report. Pastor sent us her usual Pastor Report for March. She wanted to share some of her synod training with us, so Pastor led us through a Congregational Leadership presentation on how anxiety drives people. Pastor Aileen had developed the presentation based on some of her Synod training and presented it to Synod Council Presidents. She asked us to thoughtfully consider whether we could see similar patterns in our council service, or other places in our lives.
- Property – Paul brought a few things to our attention: Overhead of the choir loft, needs stucco repair and there is concern of asbestos. Dishwasher issues continue, might need a \$500 water sensor replaced.

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**Other Business**

- Outreach – Mark has questions about balancing the Food Ministry 2023 budget. He asked if funds could be spent upfront so it balances at the end of the year.
- Finance Team – Brad resigned April 1 because it was not a good fit. Pastor Aileen will search for another Finance Director.
- Time & talent engagement – Jim has distributed the time and talent spreadsheets, and we are to connect potential ministry participants. If there is no I (for Interest) in a column the person could be already participating.
- Jeff sent out the MELC policies for review. We are not ready to discuss the policies tonight. Our reconciliation statement should be on our website's landing page.
- The Endowment Fund Board is asking for council guidance regarding Life Insurance policy endowments. We unanimously voted that MELC would not accept being the beneficiaries of life insurance policies that require us to pay premiums.

**Next Meeting**

**Council Meeting** – May 9, 7:00 – 8:30 PM  
Devotions & prayer – Breanna  
Extended Ministry Report – Property

**Closing Prayer** – Mark closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson