

Messiah Lutheran Church ELCA- Congregational Council Meeting
Sunday, August 18, 2024 at 11:00 am | Fellowship Hall

Council members present: Michele Wilson, Carolyn Lawhorn, Jon Driskill, Angela Kronau, Susan Hamilton, Becky Breeden, Cristall Mount, Pastor Mark, Davin Henrik, Jack Wilder, Steve Hess, Mike Tinker (guest)

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Reporting Group	Leader	Council Liaison	Action	Notes
MINISTRY TEAMS				
Care	Illy Wood	Susan Hamilton		
Disciple	Mary Williamson	Michele Wilson		Ministry Fair / Parents Night Out / Theology Pub
Invite	Kate Spears	Davin Henrik		
Serve	Connie Cole	Jack Wilder		
Worship	Jane Mason	Jon Driskill		
SUPPORT TEAMS				
Badenhop	Mary Ellen Whitson	Becky Breeden		
Connect	Michele Wilson	Susan Hamilton		
Finance	Steve Hess	Michele Wilson		
Personnel	Michele Wilson	Davin Henrik		
Property	Jon Driskill	Michele Wilson		Women's Restroom
SPECIAL GROUPS				
BAM (Disciple)	Don Lawhorn	Carolyn Lawhorn		
DJC (Serve)	L. Wilder, M. Driskill	Jack Wilder		
Fellowship (Invite)	C. Lawhorn, J. Mennel	Cristall Mount		
Policy (Support)	Mike Driskill	Angela Kronau		
Stewardship (Finance)	Michele Wilson	Becky Breeden		
WELCA (Disciple)	Anne Tinker	Cristall Mount		
STAFF				
Parish Nurse	Mary Sophia Hawks	n/a		
Interim Senior Pastor	Pastor Mark Cerniglia	n/a		
Director of Music	Mary Phillips	n/a		

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order: Angela | Lunch by Susan Hamilton & Opening Devotion by Michele Wilson

Angela K. called the meeting to order at 11:20. Lunch was provided by Susan H. Michele W. opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

2. Approval of July Minutes

The July Council Minutes were presented for approval and discussion. Davin Henrik moved that the Minutes be approved, Jon Driskill seconded the motion and the July Council Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Tree Line on Golf Club Road – Mike Tinker

Mike T. brought to Council his thoughts on the proposal to clear some of the trees on the street front of the church property along Golfclub Rd. He told Council that it was not just the cedar trees lining the sidewalk that posed problems, but rather the extensive growth of trees and brush in the creek running between the two east side parking areas. Much had been cleared during our church-wide Spring Cleaning Day this past March, but since that time, much of the brush had grown back. He, and Council, agree that clearing the ditch is a priority. Considerations for that proposal included clearing judiciously so that we can still keep the benefits of greenery on the property; seek recommendations from various organizations in Knoxville as to what should be removed permanently and ways to do that that are environmentally appropriate; and be willing to work with West Town Mall and any local government agencies that will need to be included, since that creek is a major drainage ditch for the mall. Mike T. offered his support and told Council that he will go ahead and handle the two trees and limbs on the west side of the church building that are in need of maintenance now.

4. Finance Update - Steve Hess

2024 Income and Spending plan \$29,878 per month

July General Fund **Income** was **\$4,556** below plan.

- General Fund income is **\$10,319** below plan YTD. 5% off (giving is 6%off)
- General Fund Income is **\$8,907** below last year at this same time.

July General Fund **Expenses** were \$1,868 below Plan.

- General Fund Expenses are \$1,907 below plan YTD.
- General Fund Expenses are \$12,578 below last year at this same time.

July General Fund **Unrestricted Cash** reserves have decrease to **\$16,742**

- This is **2.4 weeks'** worth of cash.
- 2024 expenses are exceeding income - we ended 2023 with **\$37K** in unrestricted cash
- At this uncomfortably low level of unrestricted cash, I recommend General Fund spending below plan where possible.

Other **July** items to note:

- In 7 months, Pastor Mark has spent **215%** of our Sr. Pastor Auto allowance.
- In 7 months, Supply Clergy expense is at **174%** of annual plan.
- In 7 months, Building repairs are at 73% of our planned spending at \$11,748.
- Kitchen Water Heater is complete - \$3,075 balance will be added to building maintenance fund next month

a. Stock Gift

Steve H. updated Council on the gift of \$12,000 in stocks that were contributed to the general budget this past month. It was suggested that this might be one factor in the lower giving levels for 2024, though that is unknown currently.

Michele W. offered to send a thank you note, on behalf of Council, to the donor of the stock gift.

5. Correspondence –Sullivan Weakly Land Acquisition, Updates, Teach Group, Building Use requests, etc.

Sullivan Weakly Land Acquisition offer: Council favors pursuing the inquiry offer submitted to Council Sullivan Weakly Land Acquisition out of Atlanta, Georgia. First steps expressed by Council include reviewing Deanne Hill HOA covenants and city/county codes relative to zoning requirements, etc. Michele W. will reach out to Craig Stewart and Mike Driskill for help with this.

TEACH group update: Michele W. reported that a Memorandum of Understanding is now in effect between the TEACH group and Messiah. Changes include fee increases for their building use fees at Messiah through the month of December, 2024, at which time we will review the fees and actual building use hours. Cristal M. will reach out to St. John Luteran, Peace Lutheran and Erwin Presbyterian churches about the outreach program fees so that we can offer adjustments in December that are more in line with current usage fees charged by local churches with similar programs. Jon D. requests that we remind the TEACH group that doors leading from the Vestibule to the playground are not to be obstructed with “stuff” (a fire code violation) and please make sure that any person(s) that are the last to leave each day secure all doors that they have used during their time at Messiah.

6. Monthly Reports

Pastor Mark’s Report: Pastor Mark reminded us that the Call Committee will meet with Pastor Jeremy Hemphill next Sunday (August 25). He is an Assistant to Bishop Strickland and will be guiding the committee members through the Call process. Pastor Hemphill will preach for us that day. He also told us that with

Confirmation needs approaching soon, that he has reached out to his colleagues at Peach and St. John's churches, expressing interest in doing this year's class cooperatively.

Building Committee Report (TVA Audit): Jon D. reported that he continues to monitor Messiah's water usage numbers since the water leak in the women's handicap toilet was discovered earlier this summer. It appears to be less than previous billing periods, so hopes to get a plumber in soon to finish the work. He also received the TVA Energy Audit back this past month and Council was asked to review it so that over the next few meetings we can begin to address needs with workable solutions.

7. Ministry Fair Assistance by Liaisons

In order to ensure a successful Ministry Fair Day (September 15th), Michele W. requests that each Council Liaison reach out to each of their committee chair persons, to ensure that we will have a complete representation of all ministry opportunities at Messiah. We will be able to set up Saturday, September 14th with all necessary tables and displays. Chairs will be returned Sunday morning after the Outdoor Service scheduled for that morning.

8. Call Committee Update (See item 6—Pastor Mark's Report)

9. Sign Up for Meal & Devotion for September 2024

Davin H. will bring lunch for the September Council meeting and Angela K. will lead the opening devotion.

10. Other Business

Blessing Box Request: Cristal M. shared an email she received recently regarding a question about visitors retrieving items from the box that did not appear to legitimately need those items. After much discussion, Council agreed that in giving those gifts, we are not required to pass judgement on the recipients. We are only called to offer help to those who may need the help, recognizing that some may take advantage of the help, but better to offer help anyway to those who might truly benefit from it. Susan H. moved to maintain the Blessing Box, Jack W. seconded the motion and Council voted unanimously to continue supplying the Blessing Box.

Church History Book sample: Jack W. offered a sample of a Church History that was produced by Dennis Osland's home church in Minnesota as a project he would like to see pursued at Messiah. Council suggested that Jack W. contact Tom Cole, Anne

Tinker and Debbie Hempstead since they have a long history with Messiah. Susan H. volunteered to help with any necessary editing.

11. Adjourn with prayer: Pastor Mark adjourned our meeting with prayer at 12:45.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Sunday, September 15 at 11 am

Devotion: Angela Kronau

Meal: Davin Henrik

UPCOMING DATES:

Reports Due: Thursday, September 5

Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 pm via Zoom