



Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose Church Council

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Minutes

SHARING JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE

Present: Odell Olson, Charlene Brown, Ivar Saugen, Gail Stolee Members-at-large: Carolyn Andersen, Dave Larson, Chris Hohm, Donny Loewen, Darlene Dahle, Pr. Calvin Skriver, Pr. Bev Swanson

MSC that we conduct this meeting via Zoom

1. Welcome and Opening

a. Devotions: Chris read from John 15, "I am the vine...", and from selected verses in Ephesians 4, encouraging us "not to be distracted by every wind of teaching" which he followed up with the May 2, 2020 reading "Living in the Branches," from Our Daily Bread Ministries Canada. He juxtaposed these readings in which one talks about Jesus as our stronghold and support and the other in which we use that support to keep us grounded and centered. There are, he reminded us, always things going on in the world that pull our attention this way and that. We need to strive not to let it, both to help ourselves, and to be of more use to others.

b. Council members shared briefly about our lives and times.

2. **MSC** that the agenda be adopted as circulated.

3. **MSC** that the minutes of the Council Meeting of April 21, 2020 be adopted as printed.

4. **Reports**

a. Pastor Calvin's Report: See printed report in which he has been considering the implications of how and when to re-open public worship. In addition, he commented on the Festival of Homiletics he has been tuning into since he was not able to participate in person this year due to covid-19. He also expressed concern about parishioners who do not have access to Messiah through either Eastlink or computer. Although this is not a very large group, it is something that needs to be addressed.

b. Pastor Bev's Report: See printed report in which she mentioned ongoing work in worship planning and otherwise making connections with people including confirmands, those needing pastoral care, and for wedding planning. She is also wondering what might be done to celebrate with the graduates who are missing many of the usual events that go along with graduation.

c. Treasurer's report: A special meeting of Council will be held Monday, May 25 at 7 p.m. to review the year end statement and consider the recommendations of the budget committee which include an increased deficit next year. A first draft of the year end statement has been developed and indicates a deficit of about \$35,000. The Treasurer is considering which items might be capitalized. Ivar will confer with the chair of the Support Committee on this.

The roof fund now stands at \$ 40,010. (Total cost was \$ 94,649.) In the interim, the balance is being covered by the capital fund.

d. Standing Committees

1. Learning – Donny reported that plans for Alpha are still alive and being worked on. Outreach is a concern of the committee which will meet May 20.

2. Service – Chris reported that the service committee will meet May 22. They are encouraging people who hosted Eating Together events to maintain contact with their guests.

3. Support – Dave Larson reported donations of \$40,010 for the roof fund.

4. Witnessing – Carolyn reported that Shirley Loewen will coordinate how we contact members of the congregation who are not on other contact lists i.e. senior's birthday, eating together. The purpose is to connect during this time of isolation, have conversation, and listen to people should they have any specific needs or concerns at this time. If the member needs some help or wants to communicate their concerns to others, permission would be asked to share this. The intent is to be a caring community. Shirley Loewen agreed to assign members to those who have volunteered to phone and she would be the link to communicate visits to the church office. Pr. Calvin has been asked to provide some guidelines.

The question was asked how the church and the ministerial committee do or could work with the City on social issues in Camrose, especially as fallout from the pandemic becomes more obvious and urgent. Pr Calvin was unaware of any current plans. Does our church have a role?

5. Worship – The committee will meet May 21.

5. Forward Planning and Opportunities

a. Covid-19 - Our pastors will connect with Dr. Hinshaw and Premier Kenney via Zoom on Thursday evening to get clarification on guidelines around public worship. The consensus is that we should not resume public worship at this time and that Coffee on the Lawn also not resume until further notice.

b. Annual General Meeting - Annual reports will be sent out May 31 in time for an Annual General Meeting tentatively set for Sunday, June 14 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

c. Nominating Committee - One member is still needed on each of Learning and Worship. The committee has not yet found a vice-President and a Treasurer. Some brainstorming took place.

6. Correspondence -

a. After spirited discussion around the potential implications of accepting government funding, it was agreed to defer a decision to the May 25, 2020 meeting following closer study of the proposal from the Council of Christian Charities and endorsed by the Bishops of the ELCIC. Entitled *Matching Donations Distribution Model* the proposal addresses the ongoing sustainability of churches and faith-based charities who provide significant services to the most vulnerable in the community.

7. Next Meeting: May 25, 2020 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Centre to discuss the budget.

8. Pr. Calvin closed with prayer and the Lord's prayer. 9:33 p.m.