



**Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose**  
**Church Council**  
Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:00 pm  
Via Zoom  
**MINUTES**

*SHARING JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE*

**Present:** Charlene Brown, David Dahle, Gail Stolee (briefly due to internet failure), Carolyn Andersen, Chris Hohm, Dave Larson, Donny Loewen, Pr Calvin, Pr Bev

1. President Charlene Brown welcomed Council members to the first regular meeting of the 2020-2021 term. She led a devotional time based on Jeremiah 29 and a reading from "When Are We Gonna Get There?" In the midst of unknowing, confusion, distractions, slowness, and discouragement, we need to keep going on the road God has laid before us.
2. **MSC** that this meeting be held by ZOOM.
3. **MSC** that the agenda be adopted with the following additions: add 5.f Administrative Assistant succession, casual volunteers; under 6.iv.3 Support add a report on Wednesday rebroadcast.

**MSC** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting of May 25, 2020 be adopted as printed.

**4. Time Sensitive Items and forward planning**

- a. Council vacancies  
**MSC** that Lael Olson be appointed to the position of Member-at-large.

Chris Hohm is open to considering the position of Treasurer depending on the scope of the duties. Charlene will consult with Ivar Saugen on the responsibilities of the position and continue discussion with Chris.

- b. Member-at-large assignments to committees  
Lael Olson was assigned to the Worship Committee. The other four members-at-large will keep their current assignments.
- c. Covid-19 update  
**MS** that the following recommendation from the Worship Committee be approved:  
**a) in-person worship resume on September 13, 2020**  
**b) the guidelines outlined by the Alberta Government on June 9 and those of the Synod of Alberta and The Territories on June 12 be implemented, and**  
**c) any updates posted by the government and/or the Synod be followed.**

**MSC** that the following amendment to the above recommendation be approved:

- d) the daily reporting of new cases needs to be static or decreasing.**

The amended motion was **Carried**.

There was then a discussion on whether conditions should be set for closing down the in-person worship services if things deteriorate. It was the consensus of Council members that Church Council reserves the right to stop services if things change either over the summer or in the fall. The Worship Committee will also be monitoring the virus numbers over the summer to see if any changes to the scheduled opening of in-person services are warranted.

**d. Policy review – Rentals**

**MSC** that in Section D General Policies of our Governance Manual under B. Facility Use the phrases “not-for-profit” and “They shall not be used for commercial purposes” should be removed.

These phrases may have been included at a time when it was thought that our charitable status might be in jeopardy if we rented our facilities to for-profit organizations. Our current assessment is that our charitable status would not be jeopardized by renting to such organizations. Another concern is whether our tax-free status would be jeopardized. There was also a concern that Messiah not be seen as competing with local businesses. Before completing these changes we should seek the advice of an accountant and lawyer.

**5. Reports**

**a. Status of our ministries**

i. President’s report: The director of Camrose Camerata has contacted Charlene about the possibility of renting our sanctuary on Monday evenings this fall for rehearsals if choirs indeed become a possibility again. She also wants to be able to use Messiah’s live-streaming capabilities for future concerts. She would hire Messiah technicians to run the equipment. Both of these requests are hypothetical since Alberta Health and Alberta Synod guidelines at present do not permit large group singing. If our live-streaming capabilities are used by outside groups it is imperative that it be done through our own Messiah YouTube section so that settings will not be tampered with that will affect our Sunday morning broadcasts.

**MSC** that the Support Committee review the fees for renting any of our facilities or using any of our equipment such as that used for live-streaming of events.

ii. Pastor Calvin’s report

Pastor Calvin mentioned that the Girl Guides have also expressed interest in renting our facilities. Pastor Calvin raised the issue of the need for additional administrative assistant help. There is money in the budget to support additional help since Lori only works 4 days a week. The budget would also allow for the necessary training time for the new person.

**MSC** that Charlene and Carolyn work with Pastor Calvin for advertising and hiring for this part-time administrative position.

Pastor Calvin raised the issue of whether the custodians should be paid for July and August for “the actual hours worked” or “for the average hours worked” as in the past. It was thought appropriate to pay the custodians for the actual hours worked during July and August. Pastor Calvin will discuss with the custodians whether this is agreeable with them.

iii. Pastor Bev’s report

Pastor Bev reported that at the end of August she will have completed the third year of her three-year term first call. According to the Bishop Pastor Bev will have to be issued a new letter of call. A letter of call needs congregational approval.

**MSC** that the Executive deal with all the necessary details surrounding the renewal of Pastor Bev’s letter of call.

iv. Standing Committees

1. Learning: An Alpha Program group has been meeting 3-4 times. At this point they do not know whether the program will be in person or run online.

2. Service: The Committee is happy to have a full complement of members.

3. Support: It was reported that the rebroadcast of our Sunday morning services will continue during the summer, but will be suspended in the fall. Initially the purpose of the Wednesday rebroadcast was only meant to be short term in order to work on issues such as the sound.

4. Witnessing

**MSC** that a Messiah designated account be established for the support of the Lutheran School Scholarship program in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

Funds collected for this designated account will be forwarded to the Synod for transfer to the Synod-approved Scholarship program in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO).

5. Worship

**MSC** that the following statement should be displayed on our worship screens at some point in our services: "We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground for many Indigenous peoples."

6. **Treasurer**

In the absence of a treasurer, Charlene asked Pastor Calvin to report on the state of our finances. Pastor Calvin mentioned that for the month of May we have a \$5000 deficit.

7. **Signing authority**

The Minutes of our Annual Meeting will be sent to the banks in order for them to set up the necessary forms for our new officers to sign.

8. **Next Meeting**

- a. Regular Council Meeting, Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 7:00 pm
- b. Devotions: Donny Loewen  
(A devotion schedule will be set up in the fall.)

9. **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

**MSC** that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.