



Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose
Church Council
Wednesday October 21, 2020 7:00 pm
Via Zoom
MINUTES

SHARING JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE

Present: Charlene Brown, David Dahle, Gail Stolee, Chris Hohm, Carolyn Andersen, Dave Larson, Donny Loewen, Lael Olson, Pastor Calvin Skriver, Pastor Bev Swanson

1. President Charlene Brown welcomed Council members at 7:05. David Dahle led a devotion based on Jesus at the Mount of Olives kneeling in anguish to pray to his Father, his Abba, to remove the cup of suffering from him. (Luke 22:39-46) We all come to times of trial, but we need to pray as Jesus did, to God, our Father. These are trying times in which we, individually and collectively, need to continue to pray and to nurture our sense of church and of worship.
2. **MSC** that this meeting be held by ZOOM.
3. **MSC** that the agenda be adopted with the addition of item 8. iv. Pastoral review.
4. **MSC** that the Minutes of the Council meeting of September 16, 2020 be adopted as printed.
5. Business arising
 - a. **MSC** that we continue to investigate having accounts at one, rather than two banks. Discussion: This may be affected by our ability to obtain credit if need be.
 - b. **MSC** that the fee structure proposed by the Support Committee be adopted.
 - c. Agreed that the job descriptions of the custodians, audio visual technician, and organist be reviewed by the committees working most closely with, and in consultation with the person(s) currently occupying those positions. ACTION: Charlene will organize this.
6. Status of our ministries (Note: Council asked our pastors to report in the context of a format provided including estimates of percentage of time spent as well as specific activities. It was understood that these were approximations to set up a base line and help us better understand and support our ministry.)
 - a. **Pastor** Calvin, in addition to his written report, explained that he assessed the time spent on various functions on the basis of 50 hours per week averaged over two weeks. At the same time he noted that some activities are seasonal and that this is a particularly atypical period.
 - b. **Pastor** Bev, in addition to her written report, raised the possibility of some CLBI students being interested in working with our youth. ACTION This will be referred to the Learning Committee to make a recommendation regarding the advisability, expectations and honoraria for such an engagement.
 - c. Treasurer Chris Hohm provided a brief summary of income and expenses to Sept. 30, 2020 backed up by a condensed and also a detailed statement of revenues and expenses. (Attached) His report shows that revenues for the year are \$30,000 below budget. Specifically, giving in September for operations, was about \$4-5000 below budget. Discussion of the meaning of this and implications for the future followed.

ACTION: The Treasurer will write an article for the Messenger. Weekly figures will be included in the church bulletin.

A discussion around the nature and timing of a special appeal was unresolved.

d. Standing Committees

i. Learning reported that ALPHA is going well and will probably run again at an undetermined time in the new year. PR Bev will meet in November with parents of the students who would normally have been confirmed last spring. Her plan is to meet with them regularly to help make up for learning and community building time lost due to Covid-19. She anticipates a 2021 Confirmation date.

MSC that Maureen Millang be appointed to the Learning Committee.

ii. Service is working on two areas of concern: homelessness, and a Care Group proposal for organizing to assist others in ways large and small. Noted: The City of Camrose is looking into the homelessness situation here. Open Door is opening a shelter in Wetaskiwin in November.

New/additional/replacement committee members are needed.

iii. Support **MSC** that we contract with Otis for elevator inspection at the rate of \$2340/year based on four inspections annually.

It was noted that although our elevator works, it is old and we will need to plan for its eventual replacement at an estimated cost of \$100,000.

MSC that we rent a small office space on the second floor off the Youth area to Dale Swanson for \$200/month.

iv. Witnessing Wednesday morning coffee will continue inside with appropriate Covid protocols in place. Shirley Loewen will assume the chair, replacing Cece Watts.

v. Worship Communion

MSC to adopt the following recommendations from the Worship Committee:

- a. That we accept the list of attendees provided by the family as our official list for contact tracing and therefore we do not need volunteers to check people in at funerals.
- b. That the Pastors follow the Synod guidelines as per the font, handling of the infant, and physical distancing; and, the Pastors may use their discretion on wearing masks, using a shell to pour the water and using a cotton ball to anoint with oil.
- c. That Communion Service be held regularly on the 4th Sunday of the month beginning on October 25, 2020. (Communion will also be served on November 22, and Christmas Day.)
- d. That for the present time we serve one element (bread) during in-person Communion Service at Messiah.
- e. That the communicants will be ushered forward wearing their masks, will sanitize their hands as they proceed to the altar, will receive a gluten free wafer from the pastor who is wearing a mask, move to the side before removing their masks and consuming the wafer, will then replace their masks and return to their seats.

Notes: Prior to the resumption of Holy Communion, the congregation will be made aware of their options to:

- Invite the Pastor(s) to their homes for private communion along with family members and cohorts
- Invite Pastor(s) to include communion at small groups that regularly gather for study or prayer e.g. Lectio
- Invite the Pastor(s) to a certain building or locations where the sacrament can be safely offered to a small group e.g. a lodge.

7. Check in on re-opening Consensus that it is going well.
8. Other business
 - i. **MSC** that with regard to the benefit changes, the Executive be authorized to discuss the various options and decide on which to adopt.
 - ii. Care group proposal – Service committee
 - iii. Policy review – deferred
 - iv. **MSC** that Charlene Brown and David Dahle comprise the pastor review committee.
9. Next Meeting Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 7:00 pm Zoom
Devotions: Gail
10. 9:36 Pastor Bev offered closing prayer. Adjournment