



Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose
Church Council
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Zoom
MINUTES

SHARING JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE

Present: Charlene Brown, David Dahle, Chris Hohm, Gail Stolee, Carolyn Andersen, Dave Larson, Donny Loewen, Lael Olson, Bev Thomas (on behalf of the Service Committee), Pastor Bev Swanson

1. Chairperson Charlene Brown opened the meeting at 7:05 and led a devotion based on the story of Jonah entitled, "Starting Where You Are" which urged us to persevere in our faith, let God direct our ways and make us new. A reading from Hebrews reminded us to stir up one another to love and good works.
2. **Agreed** to hold the meeting via Zoom.
3. **MSC** that the agenda be adopted with the addition of item 8ii Appointment of the nominating group
4. **MSC** that the minutes of Council for December 16, 2021, and the minutes of the email vote of January 13, 2021, be adopted as presented.
5. i. The President and Member-at-large from Witnessing have begun meeting with staff as part of an annual review.

ii. The President and vice-President have checked in with Pastor Calvin as agreed at the beginning of his leave.
6. It was agreed that we would continue with online worship until circumstances and regulations around the spread of Covid-19 made it safe to return to in-person services.
7. i. Pastor Bev reiterated how encouraging it has been to see the many ways in which people are staying connected and nurturing their spiritual lives by participating in the online studies and social groups. She noted that people from outside the congregation and even beyond Camrose have joined some of the offerings. Council did not support the holding of a wedding with a non-ordained officiant.

ii. The Treasurer presented his report to the end of December 2020 noting that overall, giving was over budget in December although specifically designated Christmas offering was below budget. He will put a brief report in the next Messenger. Pastor Bev will thank for and encourage support at the service.

iii. Standing Committees
 - a. The Learning Committee reported that a new Alpha session will begin Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30. There was discussion about the value of using Facebook in a well-monitored and managed way to connect with and inform people.
 - b. The Service Committee is distributing "Thank you" posters to let various front-line workers know they are noticed and appreciated. They are also monitoring ways we might reinforce the work of other agencies in Camrose.
 - c. Witnessing Committee is looking at more ways to connect with people during this time of isolation.
 - d. Worship Committee is working on a Lenten devotional book which will be available online and in print.

e. Support Committee is working through issues with our elevator contract.

8 i. Budget planning steps:

a. President will ask Committees to submit their budget requests with a basic rationale to the President by March 1, 2021 for consideration at the March Council meeting. Committees will be given a summary of their Committee's spending which the Treasurer will request from the Bookkeeper

b. Budget to office for inclusion in Council package by April 16

c. Council review/approve budget at April 21 meeting. (Additional meetings if needed.)

d. Final budget to Office for printing by May 1.

e. Presentation of budget to AGM on June 6, 2021.

ii. Agreed that the vice-President will assemble a small nominating committee.

9. Next meeting: Thursday, February 18 Devotion: Lael

10. Pastor Bev closed the meeting with prayer and we adjourned at 9:10.