



Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose
Church Council Meeting
Thursday, September 23, 2021 7:00 PM
Via Zoom
MINUTES

SHARING JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE

Present: David Dahle, Agnes Hoveland, Gail Stolee, Dave Stolee, Carolyn Andersen, David Larson, Donny Loewen, Dena Grue, Pastor Bev Swanson, Guest: Kathy Nelson, Bethesda Lutheran Church, New Norway

1. Welcome and Opening

a. Devotions: Gail Stolee offered a reflection on Genesis 1:6 remembering that God created a cradle for life and asking God to bless us and all people with the grace of creativity and the hope of new beginnings.

2. MSC to hold meeting via Zoom.

3. MSC to adopt the agenda.

4. MSC to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting of September 15, 2021

5. Status of Our Ministries

a. President

i. **MSC** that Dena Grue be appointed to serve out the term of Lael Olson (to June, 2022) on Church Council as a member-at-large and liaison for the Worship Committee.

MSC that Leny Vanderjagt be appointed to serve out the term of Dena Grue (to June 2023) on the Worship Committee.

ii. It was agreed that the office would not close on September 30, Truth and Reconciliation Day. Pastor Bev will bring attention to the day on Sunday and encourage people to remember and learn. There will also be a note in the Messenger. We recognize that we need to delve much further into how we relate to all matters concerning Indigenous people and our relationships with them.

iii. The President welcomed Kathy Nelson from Bethesda Lutheran Church, New Norway. The congregations of New Norway and Bashaw have had part-time pastors and strong lay participation in leading worship; however, they are looking for a long-term solution for both worship, visitation and special programs like confirmation and youth. This could include an alliance with Messiah. Pastor Bev offered to include their confirmation students with ours in the current year. President Dahle, Pastor Bev, and Donny Loewen will form a committee to meet with the New Norway and Bashaw congregations and report to the next Council meeting.

- iv. **MSC** that Messiah adopt the Restrictions Exemption Program for all gatherings except worship until such time as restrictions are lifted by the Province

b. Pastor Bev's Report - See written report. Two leaders are in place for youth.

Regarding the discernment process, the leadership and questions that will be posed will be ready to report at the next Council meeting. The plan is to use existing groups and to gather over Zoom. Meanwhile, it was agreed that the discernment process cannot impede some of the urgent tasks of Council such as decisions around staffing and budgets.

c. Treasurer's Report

i. Treasurer reported that he is reviewing the maintenance budget and the many reserve funds and how they relate to the budget, etc. It was agreed that the congregational meeting on October 17 should include, in addition to the Endowment Fund item, an update by the President on the state of affairs at Messiah with an opportunity for questions.

A question was raised regarding whether Messiah has an asset management program.

ii. It was agreed that staff job descriptions and contracts need to be regularly reviewed and updated. This includes how fees for services are integrated. Carolyn Andersen and Agnes Hoveland will report to the January Council meeting on staff job descriptions and the implications for our overall organizational structure.

d. Standing Committees – See written reports

6. **MSC** that Council move into in camera session. The President declared the in-camera session ended.

MSC that effective September 27, Messiah require all staff and volunteers engaged in in-person events in the church to provide proof of vaccination; or, evidence of a negative covid test within the previous 72 hours; or, a letter/certificate of medical exemption.

7. Daycare item carried forward.

8. **Next Meeting**

a. Special Congregational Meeting: Sunday, October 17, 7:00 pm by Zoom

b. Regular Council Meeting: October 20 Devotion: Donny

Agreed that the regular meeting date shall be the third Wednesday of the month.

9. Pastor Bev closed with prayer.