



**Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
Thursday, October 20, 2021 7:00 PM  
Via Zoom  
**MINUTES**

*SHARING JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE*

**Present:** David Dahle, Carolyn Andersen, Dena Grue, Agnes Hoveland, Dave Larson, Donny Loewen, Dave Stolee, Gail Stolee, Pastor Bev Swanson

**1. Welcome and Opening**

a. Donny Loewen led a devotion based on Philippians 1:6 reminding us that we need to take every opportunity to introduce others to Christ. He prayed that despite differences and seeming divisions, we would be guided in humility and trust in God's wisdom and grace.

**2. MSC to Hold Meeting via Zoom**

**3. MSC** to adopt the agenda but as there are many pressing matters, to give priority to the endowment fund, preparations for the incoming refugees, and the President's report.

**4. MSC** to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021 Council

**5. Status of Our Ministries**

**5.1. MSC** that we authorize the signing of the agreement with ELFEC (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Eastern Canada) for the investment of our approximately \$120,000 from our Mission Endowment funds.

As per executive e-vote of October 22, 2021, "that our Treasurer, David Stolee, hold the signing authority for the agreement with ELFAC and if a second signature be required it be that of our President, David Dahle"

We assume at this time that Messiah will want to withdraw the full amount of earned income on a yearly basis.

**5.2.** We have been informed by CLWR that the first of the refugees we have agreed to sponsor, a single man, will arrive on Nov. 7, and the family of four will come November 30. While this is welcome and long-awaited news, we will need to form a committee very quickly to welcome them and assist in their settlement. At present there is no committee nor leader for this. Pastor Bev will put an announcement/request in the Bulletin and also ask for volunteers at the service on Sunday. Volunteers may contact Shirley Loewen, chair of the Witnessing Committee; however, Shirley is not the coordinator for this initiative.

**MSC** that the Treasurer be the signing authority on any apartment leases for the refugees if required by the apartment owners and in accordance with our contracts with CLWR.

**5.3 President's Report**

**5.3.1.** It was agreed to refer the question of additional financial recognition of Pastor Bev's new responsibilities as Acting Senior Pastor to the executive to report back to Council.

**5.3.2. MSC** to accept the amended Restrictions Exemption Program policy.

*Amendments:*

a) *MSC to remove the requirement that staff and volunteers be vaccinated, provide a negative COVID-19 test, or provide proof of a medical exemption.*

*b) MSC to remove the requirement for physical distancing.*

These changes bring our policy directly in line with the provincial REP. It is only in effect for large events such as weddings and funerals and does not apply to regular worship services. Without an REP gatherings of over 50 people would not be possible.

**5.3.3. MSC** to move in camera.

After an extended period of discussion and prayer, **MSC** to move back into open session.

**5.3.4. MSC** that Council rescind the motion of September 23, 2021 which reads "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 with the previous 72 hours, or a letter/certificate of medical exemption."

In light of the motion to rescind the previous policy, and in order to continue to ensure to the greatest extent possible, safety and protection for all, **MSC** that staff and volunteers will continue to be required to follow the existing guidelines for masking, distancing and sanitizing; and that staff will be strongly encouraged to be immunized.

Council's advice to Pastor Bev will be that she request any unvaccinated staff or volunteers who may ordinarily be involved in working in close proximity to others, to manage their activities such that they can work individually or with others in their bubble or of like mind. An example of this would be volunteers working in the sound booth where distancing is not possible.

Letters will be sent to all those who wrote either in support of, or in opposition to the previous policy as well as to the entire congregation.

**6.** Due to the lateness of the hour and the intensity of the discussion, all other items were tabled for a future meeting.

**7. Next Meeting**

a. Regular Council Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 7:00 pm by Zoom  
Devotions: David Dahle

**8. Closing:** Prayer - Pastor Bev, and Adjournment