

Messiah Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes March 17, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Bob Leis, Tom Murphy, Bob Follis, Cheryl Follis, Jim Thoreson, Ginny Pedersen, Pastor Nancy Hanson, Dede Maki, Travis Tulowitzky, Linda Coleman

Absent: Clayton Koss and Keith Holm

Meeting called to order.

Opening devotions by Pastor Nancy with a discussion on *Unbinding the Gospel* chapter one. We shared highs and lows. It was discovered that Cyndi Belanger could teach a CPR class

M/S/C to approve the Secretary's report as presented.

M/S/C to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. New financial formats are being used, thanks to Tom Murphy & Cheryl Follis. Giving is down about \$2400 from last year. This is a contribution rather than an expense problem. Cheryl will create some sort of financial reporting for the bulletin/newsletter quarterly. Let Tracy know to put in the March 22, 29 and April 5 bulletin wording such as: *Easter is coming and a great time to give a special gift to the ministry at Messiah.* It is recommended that an asset sheet be created for Messiah sometime this year.

Pastor Report: A written report was presented. Pastor Nancy will postpone her application for a Lilly Sabbatical Grant, with hopes to take the next year to educate the whole congregation on the definition and benefits of a sabbatical.

Worship Ministry: Ask Tracy to put into the bulletin that Sunday morning worship time will be discussed at the April council meeting. Should you have input on this topic, either attend the council meeting or give your input to one of the church council members.

Learning Ministry: The Youth Ministry Team met on March 5. Play practice has started and kids are preparing for April 19 Youth Sunday. Vacation Bible School will be June 22-25 and use a model very similar to last year. Input on Sunday morning worship time is that 8:30 am is more difficult than 9:00 am for young families.

Support Ministry: Windows are being installed in the church basement and will be installed in the parsonage basement by John Nyara.

Parsonage Discussion: Parsonage Committee recommends selling the parsonage. Recommendation includes same operating budget of \$400 per month. Interest from investment of money from sale of house will add to the total amount available for a housing allowance. Synod recommends \$1000/month housing allowance. This housing environment may warrant a little less than that. Housing allowance may increase annually. Question as to whether amount of housing allowance should be tied to success of investment fund. Unpredictable housing allowance not reasonable for pastor. Will principle be locked in or can it be accessed for other needs? **M/S/C to commit to total of \$600 (\$500 from Messiah and \$100 from Port Wing) now for a housing allowance and reevaluate after sale of house.** Bob Leis has talked to

CHRISM. Will vote on selling parsonage at April meeting. Will put notice of recommendation in bulletins for March 22, 20, April 5, 12 and 19.

Informational Items

A new AA/AI-anon women's meeting will start on Monday nights, April 6, 5:30-6:30 pm.

General consensus is that it is great Messiah is used for the whole community.

Pastor Nancy needs to find the prices for polka bands.

Bob Leis recommends that we host a worship/picnic at W. End Park to honor Veterans, use Thrivent Action Team money

New Business

M/S/C Council Member Job Description be adopted with two changes: #6 should read Serves as a volunteer greeter at Sunday worship service if willing, at the beginning or end of worship. Add #10 Attend council meetings faithfully and regularly.

Finance/Stewardship Committee draft job description should be read and discussed at April meeting

M/S/C Proceed with transferring the gifted property of Warren Nedjedlo into the name of Messiah.

Council gives Travis permission to ask his contact for a free bid regarding sound system in church basement.

Lord's Prayer prayed.

Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting: **April 21, 7:00 p.m.**