

Messiah Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes - October 20, 2015

Members Present: Cheryl Follis, Bob Follis, Bob Leis, Tom Murphy, Jim Thoreson, Dede Maki, Travis Tulowitzky, Linda Coleman, Ginny Petersen, Dave Anderson and Pastor Nancy. **Guest:** Dianne Heapy

Meeting called to order at 6pm.

Pastor Nancy Opened with devotions and a discussion of giving and receiving.

Secretaries Report: M/S/C to accept Secretaries Report as presented.

Pastors Report: A written report was presented. Pastor is working on developing a code of conduct for youth ministries and presented a draft to the council. Two Thrivent grants were applied for and approved. The grants will be used to offer training to WWW teachers. The little free library will be up soon. The new library box is beautiful. Thanks to all who worked hard to create it.

Learning Ministry – Youth Ministry team met on September 23rd. See Pastors Report.

Support Ministry – Carpet project should be completed next week. Ramp has been completed. The parsonage wiring project is still not finished. The bathroom project is waiting on the plumber. Jim Thoreson will ask his plumber.

Heaven's Helping Hands – Met on October 18th. The next event is Thanksgiving dinner on November 4th.

Stewardship/Finance Committee– The committee has meet twice since the last meeting. A few things have been done.

1. Approved spending up to \$1,000 from the Ardys Davis Memorial to repair the organ. 2. Approved a policy that allows Pastor Nancy to use the proceeds from the coffee fellowship from the first Sunday of every month at her discretion. 3. Listed the Nejedlo property with Rita Sharp for \$38,000. 4. Set up a \$20,000 line of credit at Bremer Bank. 5. Received an offer on the Nejedlo property for \$30,000, countered at \$34,000, accepted a counter to the counter of \$32,000. Closing to be November 2nd. We will need a resolution authorizing Pastor Nancy to sign and execute the deed at closing. **M/S/C to authorize Pastor Nancy to sign and execute the transfer of deed on the sale of the Nejedlo property and that she will sign as Nancy Hanson on behalf of Messiah Lutheran.** The committee is also working on guidelines for using memorial funds and it is working on the 2016 Budget. Council members were asked to submit expense requests by November 1 to Tom or Cheryl. A PayPal account for the church has been opened. Linda Coleman reported that there are no restrictions on the use of memorial funds. The endowment fund language says we have to hold the principle in perpetuity. She will notify the Secretary of State of our proposed change in policy to allow the church to use the principle provided we follow existing guidelines. Thanks to the committee for their work and to Linda for her work. The committee will determine how to use the funds. Consider adding sound system for the basement. Estimated \$2,500.

Old Business - None

New Business – The council selected January 16, 2016 from 9am to 1pm for the strategic planning meeting. It will be held at the Steak Pit.

Discussion of hanging the rainbow flag outside of the church for the upcoming LGBT service. Following a discussion on the pros and cons of hanging the flag during the service the council took the following action: **M/S/C to approve adding a rainbow symbol on our existing Highway 13 Messiah Lutheran sign. The issue of if or when to hang the rainbow flag outside of the church was tabled to a future meeting. The Building and Grounds Committee is to find out what changes we can make to the sign from the city. A smaller group will work on a design for the Highway 13 sign.** The flag discussion started a broader discussion of ways that Messiah can walk the talk of being an RIC church. Since we voted to be an RIC church on Feb. 1, now how are we going to live out this congregational outreach ministry? Ideas included: make sure there is a poster hanging within the walls of the high school that says something about Messiah being gay-friendly; have a rainbow flag inside the church; be sure to get this word out, or else how can those who need to know about our welcome find out?

Treasurer's Report: M/S/C to accept the Treasurer's report. Tom and Cheryl continue to work on formatting financial reports. Reporting major gifts on the financial statements is an issue that needs to be resolved. Weekly contributions continue to be behind last year. The finance committee was asked to draft something to notify members about deficit. It was suggested that we provide ordinary income information to the members and that we ask them for input on how to make up the deficit. We should put income information in each Sunday bulletin and include a one page insert in the next Messenger.

M/S/C to adjourn at 7:45 pm.