

## Messiah Lutheran Church Council Minutes – September 28, 2021

**Present:** Jared Myers, Bev Dehn, Bob Leis, Julie Vadnais, Kelly Beirl, Jeff Olsen, Cheryl Follis, Heidi Kahlstorf, Carol Salminen, Michelle Lampson, and Pastor Nancy **Absent:** Tom Mitchell

**Visitors:** Doug Lowthian – A/V Upgrade Project

**Call to Order:** 6:01 pm      Pastor opened the meeting with devotions and prayers.

Moved **New Business – A/V Upgrades (1a)** to the top of the agenda.

Doug Lowthian presented a detailed proposal to the Council for upgrading our audio / visual equipment. He agreed to work with our \$2500 budget and included 20 hours for installation and training. Some questions will need to be answered before purchasing specific components. These include finding out if our existing sound mixer has a USB output port, determining if our existing microphones are of a high enough quality for streaming, and prioritizing our A/V needs.

The Council asked these questions:

- 1 – **Would we be able to hear and/or see the choir?** - Yes, depending on where you put the equipment.
- 2 – **How long will this system be useful?** - Up to 10 years, depending on how quickly our needs change. Doug selected basic, no-frills components and free / open source software to ensure longevity.
- 3 – **Where will the person controlling the system be positioned?** - Doug suggested the choir loft, the back of the room or to the side of the altar area. Depends on how much wire we are able to install.
- 4 – **Will the system be usable for small groups and/or portable?** - Potentially, depending on what equipment we select and how it is installed.
- 5 – **Would this be able to work with a large screen so people in the pews can see the choir?** - Yes!

**Secretary's Report** – Bob Leis / Jeff Olsen moved to approve the August 17th minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – We are \$238 in the red for August. That figure would have been much higher if we had not received \$2000 in CHRISM funds from Port Wing. Cheryl has significant concerns about the numbers for September and stressed we need to find ways to increase weekly offerings. Michelle Lampson / Bev Dehn moved to approve the report. Motion carried.

### **Pastor's Report**

In her written report, discussed LIFE Ministry, GIFT, a letter received from a family, and new COVID-19 advice from the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

### **Ministry Reports**

Generosity Committee has not met since last month's report. Main focus of past discussions has been determining how to respond to congregational needs and how to increase in-person worship.

### **New Business**

1a – A/V Upgrade Project - Bob Leis / Jeff Olsen moved to accept Doug Lowthian's proposal and approve moving forward with the upgrades. Motion carried.

1b – Window Project – We received a second estimate on repairing the windows. Bob Follis talked about the differences between the two proposals. He emphasized that while the cost could be almost \$200,000, the repairs are becoming increasingly urgent. Main issue is it is getting more and more difficult to open and close the windows without breaking them. Not opening them during the summer makes the sanctuary unbearably hot.

Jared said that this is not a decision the Council should make tonight. Repairing the windows is at least as big a project as the Save the Steeple campaign, both in the actual work required and raising the necessary funds. It will require a lot more thought and planning before bringing a specific request to the Council. He suggested finding out how much it would cost to replace the windows with plain glass ones. He emphasized that this is absolutely not the way he wants to go, but that it would be useful information in helping people understand why replacing 8 windows will cost almost \$200,000. He also recommended looking for other funding sources, such as grants from historical societies or ELCA programs.

Michelle Lampson / Cheryl moved to send the Window Repair project to the Generosity Committee for further discussion, research and planning. Motion carried.

2 – LIFE Youth Ministry – Kaari sent an email to Pastor Nancy detailing how she spends her 20 hours in a typical week and what an ideal allocation of hours is for a whole month. She has an office at the Presbyterian Church in Ashland. She is being supervised and monitored by Pastor Jim Deters and also reports monthly to the Presbyterian Church's Mutual Ministry team. She is seeking more input from the youth and their families. One concern is whether meeting weekly is too much for families to handle right now. Some say yes, others say moving to a bi-weekly schedule could cause confusion if a meeting is canceled or missed.

3 – Member Letter – Pastor received a letter from a former member that carefully and compassionately put forth their reasons for deciding to attend worship at a different church. The Council agreed that we should send a handwritten letter thanking the member and assuring them that our doors will always be open to them. Pastor Nancy will compose this letter, Bob Leis will hand-write it and then Council members will sign it.

4 – Fundraising Report – Jared gave a report on research he is doing to put together another Pasty Sale fundraiser. He talked with Fat Radish but has not received a definite response. He also spoke with a new business starting up in Ashland but was told they could not handle doing this right now. He would greatly appreciate any fundraising ideas from the Council, including ways we can do the Turkey Dinner and the Lutefisk / Meatball Dinner in a COVID-19 safe way. Cheryl indicated that we might want to get our Turkeys early since they are apparently scarce right now.

5 – Reminder that we need to find ways to get people to attend in-person worship safely.

6 – Pastor wants to have a half-day retreat to start creating our Mission Action Plan for 2022-2023. She suggested two dates in November. Unfortunately neither date works for all Council members. Pastor will try to come up with some alternative dates.

A motion was made Cheryl Follis / Jane Myers (via Jarad) to adjourn. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:30 pm – Pastor led us in ending prayers

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Lampson  
Church Council Secretary