

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2023



Call to Order & Roll Call (12 members, quorum is 7 members)

- **Present:**, Erin Brothen (conference call), Pastor Shawna Day, Karen Gordon, Roberta Holscher, Helen Holtti, Brenda Robbins, Matt Sanders, Hillary Williams, Zack Robbins, Patty Dolan,
- **Absent:** Susan Albers, Paultina Rollay
- Meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by Karen Gordon, President

Devotions

- Brenda
- Volunteer for May - Helen

Announcements/Reminders

- Pastor's Vacation: Wed 4/19-Thr 4/20 (still on-call) & Sun 6/18 – Fri 6/30
- Women's Tea - 4/22/23
- 1st Communion: New Date TBD
- Red Cross Blood Drive at St Peder's: 4/26/23
- Synod Assembly: 4/28-4/29
 - Erin Brothen and Brian Hagelberger will represent MCLC
- Council/Committee Retreat: New Date TBD

Next Council Meeting: 5/16/2023

Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** Approve 3/21/2023 Council Meeting Minutes (attached)
 - Motioned: Roberta Holscher; 2nd: Hillary Williams; Result: Unanimously approved

Reports

- Finance – Matt
 - The Budget and Finance Committee will meet next week to make a plan for debt reduction.
 - YTD giving is down about \$5,257 through March, although we anticipate Easter offering will cover most of this shortfall.
 - **Motion:** Approve Finance report
 - Motioned: Helen Holtti; 2nd: Patty Dolan; Result: Unanimously approved
 - **Motion:** Ask Foundation to keep the \$2,500 from the insurance claim from damage caused by bat infestation in the general fund.
 - Motioned: Brenda Robbins; 2nd: Matt Sanders; Result: Unanimously approved
- Pastor – Pastor Shawna
 - Baptisms for 3 adults and 1 child are pending.
 - Partnering with St. Peder's for confirmation this year worked well. Next year considering adding an additional day each month
 - Stewardship campaign will restart now that Easter is over
 - Send Pastor Shawna ideas for how to welcome new visitors and make them feel at home (e.g. bingo, movie night)

- MCLC Celebrates outdoor service was a success last year; looking for less planning-intensive outdoor service ideas
- Who is welcome to take communion? Some churches offer open communion to everyone for special celebrations (e.g. Christmas & Easter), even if they are not baptized, as a form of radical hospitality. Pastor Shawna gave council members an ELCA article to read about the topic.

Committee, Team & Initiative Reports (motions from committees do not require a second)

- Budget & Finance
 - Worship Assistant Payroll Process Update - Will be finalized soon
- Executive
 - Discussed time for council retreat
 - Reviewed Church organization chart and committee descriptions
 - Tabled discussion on new member process
- Family & Social Ministry
 - Easter breakfast went well (+\$300 in donations; any profit will go to budget shortfall)
 - Could use more volunteers to plan for Rally Sunday
 - Last day of Sunday school - May 21, 2023
- Property
 - Alarm system almost fully operational
 - Building use agreement form finalized. It includes...
 - A requirement for groups to show proof of liability insurance (groups without insurance can be directed to our insurance company to purchase event liability insurance)
 - A requirement to screen adults to protect youth & vulnerable adults
 - A charge if group set off false alarm (for long-term building users)
 - Dance group that normally meets at St Peder's used Fellowship hall last week; it went well
 - How do we communicate the false alarm fee to the congregation? - Illuminator announcement?
 - Re-keying of front door would require re-keying 4 doors. This would be more than \$1,400 (which is the cost of keyless entry). Property committee recommends staying with the status quo due to cost constraints
 - Exploring estimate for replacing northside emergency exit door
 - Waiting to use \$17,000 insurance claim for roof repair until Plunkett's looks at it
 - Received an anonymous donation for the money to purchase a new vacuum cleaner
 - Ron the Sewer Rat cleaned out our pipes from the sewer to the building - they recommend cleaning roots out of the pipes 2x year (\$220/cleaning each time)
 - Committee is taking a summer hiatus; will communicate via email and meet as needed; will still submit monthly reports
 - **Motion**: Limit church building use to member events and non-member community events.
 - Motioned: Matt Sanders; 2nd: Patty Dolan; Result: Unanimously approved
- Worship & Music
 - Next Meeting (May 18) - open to all members
 - Reflecting on 'what is the purpose of church on Sunday'?
- WELCA
 - Women's Tea - April 22
 - Hiatus for the summer; next meeting in September
- MCL Foundation
 - Met April 17

- Discussed MCLC's line of credit and debt reduction
- RIC
 - Will meet May 9 at 6:30pm

Not reporting: Audit, Membership, Nominating, Scholarship, Stewardship

Old Business

- Continuing Resolutions for MCLC Committees Descriptions
 - Committee Organization & Reporting
 - Discussed what authority committees have to make decisions and when they need to get a motion from council. Should the guidelines be general or unique to each committee?
 - General: Committees can use their budgeted funds, but need to get council approval to spend more than their budgeted funds
 - Budget & Finance Committee
 - Membership Committee
 - Scholarship Committee
- **Motion:** Adopt as a continuing resolution the Committee Organization and Reporting document and Budget & Finance, Membership, and Scholarship Committee descriptions as presented, provided the executive team adds to the committee Organization and Reporting document language about committees having the authority to utilize, but not exceed, budgeted funds without council approval.
 - Motioned: Matt Sanders; 2nd: Helen Holtti; Result: Unanimously approved
- Organization Chart - tabled

New Business

- Bread of Life Lutheran Church
 - They are selling their building and are looking for a space to rent. They are interested in our chapel because it works well for ASL interpreters. If it is decided that they will meet here, they would likely need an office and some storage space
 - Pastor Shawna will let council know when she gets more information from them
 - Council should reflect on "Is this a ministry we want to take on?" "What would it look like?"
- Offering Envelopes
 - Envelopes came late (some people got their Easter envelopes after Easter) - mostly because of the Post Office
 - Table this issue for next month until Roberta sends out our agreement with them and their mailing schedule
 - Roberta will add an announcement for the Illuminator to let people know the envelopes are delayed this quarter

Adjournment & Lord's Prayer

- Adjournment
 - ✓ Motioned: Brenda Robbins; 2nd: Helen Holtti; Result: Unanimously approved
- Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,

Zack Robbins, Secretary