

**Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes**

May 16, 2023



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

- **Present:**, Erin Brothen, Pastor Shawna Day, Karen Gordon, Helen Holtti, Brenda Robbins, Hillary Williams, Zack Robbins, Patty Dolan, Susan Albers
 - **Guest:** Pastor Craig Pederson
- **Absent:** Paultina Rollay, Matt Sanders, Roberta Holscher
- Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by Karen Gordon, President

Devotions

- Pastor Shawna
- Volunteer for June - Helen

Announcements/Reminders

- Next Council Meeting: 6/20/23

Meeting Minutes

- 4/18/2023 Council Meeting Minutes
 - **Motion:** Approve the minutes
 - Motioned: Patty Dolan; 2nd: Susan Albers; Result: Unanimously approved

Pastor Craig Pederson, Minneapolis Area Synod

- Interim, Transition & Call Process
 1. **Celebrate** Pastor Shawna's ministry
 2. Create Transition Team
 3. **Interim Period** (a time to discern what we need in a new Pastor, it may be shorter than in the past because we went through the process so recently)
 - a. Until we get an interim pastor, the Synod can help us find "pulpit supply" or a bridge interim pastor until we get a standard interim.
 - b. Average time of full interim process is 6 months to 1 year
 - c. Normally interim pastors can't be called by a congregation. But in our situation, an interim pastor may be called for a 2-3 year trial period and then reassessed.
 - d. Discussed the presence of unconscious bias toward female leadership in MCLC. Pastor Shawna shared this growing edge to help us grow.
 4. Create Call Committee

Pastor Shawna's Transition – Last Sunday 5/28

- Potluck for Pastor's last Sunday (May 28), with cake for Sunday's baptisms

- Action: Patty will add this announcement to Sunday’s Bulletin and order a full-sized chocolate baptism cake with “Blessings on your Baptism”. Church will pay for the cake.
- Interim Task Force
 - Purpose: Decide which type of interim pastor we need (part-time, bridge interim, or full interim process)
 - Volunteers: Patty Dolan, Brenda Robbins, (Karen will talk to Matt Sanders and Roberta Holscher about being on the task force)
 - Motion: Create a transition task force to work with the Synod to fill MCLC’s interim need.
 - Motioned: Erin Brothen; 2nd: Helen Holtti; Result: Unanimously approved

Reports

- Finance – Brenda Robbins
 - Motion: Accept report
 - Motioned: Helen Holtti; 2nd: Hillary Williams; Result: Unanimously approved
- Pastor – Pastor Shawna
 - Who else has access to add new events to the website? - Roberta (Pastor Shawna will also write down all this information)
 - Pastor recommends doing something to celebrate our new members and new friends
 - Future Item - we should create a new member checklist (e.g. do they want offering envelopes? Do they want the Illuminator mailed?)

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

- Budget & Finance
 - Worship Assistant Payroll Process - it was figured out at their meeting on April 26
 - Preparing for 2024 Budget
 - Discussing a plan for debt reduction
- RIC
 - Met last week, Erin is working on getting MCLC officially listed on RIC list of churches
 - Acknowledging Pride month in June
 - \$200 from one month’s WELCA coffee hour was donated to RIC (there is not set requirement, but they strongly encourage member churches to give something)
 - Welcoming statement will stay on the bulletin each Sunday
 - To live into our Welcome Statement, plan to have a speaker come in twice a year (from Lutheran Social Services)

Not reporting: Audit, Executive, Family & Social Ministry, Membership, Nominating, Property, Scholarship, Stewardship, Worship & Music, MCL Foundation, WELCA

Old Business

- Red Cross Blood Drive at St Peder's: 4/26/23
 - It went well, we will have another one Sept. 7 at MCLC
- Synod Assembly: 4/28-4/29 – Erin Brothen
 - In the future, there is a service the night before the Synod Assembly that is open to everyone
 - Next year the Assembly will be 2 days because we need to elect a new bishop
 - Passed a resolution to work with the Synod before opening new immigrant ministries
- Request of Foundation to keep the \$2500 from insurance claim in General Fund
 - MCF agreed to this request.
- Bread of Life Lutheran Church Building Needs

***Motion** from Executive Committee: Motion for the Executive Committee to move forward with a preliminary evaluation of the needs for building use described in the document received from Bread of Life Lutheran Church on 5/10/23, identify impacts to MCLC and develop a plan for engaging both MCLC and Bread of Life stakeholders to understand the impacts, provide input and document possible solutions. The plan for engaging stakeholders is to be ready for Council review in approximately 3 weeks.*

 - Result: Unanimously approved
- Council/Committee Retreat
 - Tabled until the June agenda - do we want to wait for the interim pastor?
- Offering Envelopes – Update on agreement & mailing schedule
 - Roberta reached out to the envelope company. They will mail them earlier. If someone doesn't get their envelopes, let the church office know
- Stewardship Campaign
 - Tabled until our interim pastor starts or council decides we are ready to move forward

New Business

- Volunteer to take minutes in June - Erin Brothen
- Funding for Rally Sunday - need \$300 for a bounce house (we could use someone's Thrivent Card)
- Gift for Pastor Shawna - Patty Dolan will research a prayer shawl. Get a picture to frame from Roxanne

Motion: Authorize MCLC to spend up to \$100 on a gift for Pastor Shawna

 - Motioned: Brenda Robbins; 2nd: Susan Albers; Result: Unanimously approved

Adjournment & Lord's Prayer

- Adjournment
 - Motioned: Helen Holtti; 2nd: Patty Dolan; Result: Unanimously approved
- Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm
- Closed with the Lord's Prayer