

**Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church**  
**Approved Council Meeting Minutes**  
**November 21, 2023**



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

- **Present:** Erin Brothen (Vice President), Pastor Matt, Karen Gordon, Roberta Holscher, Helen Holtti, Brenda Robbins, Matt Sanders (Treasurer), Hillary Williams, Zack Robbins (Secretary), Patty Dolan
- **Absent:** Susan Albers, Paultina Rollay
- Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Karen Gordon, President

**Devotions**

- Brenda
- Volunteer for December - Patty

**Announcements/Reminders**

- Council Serving WELCA 12/2/23
- Next Council Meeting: 12/19/23

**Meeting Minutes**

- [10/17/23 Council Meeting Minutes](#)
  - **Motion:** Approve the minutes
    - Motioned: Matt; 2nd: Hillary; Result: Unanimously approved

**Implicit Bias Training (Pr. Matt)**

- All synod area pastors have had 2 sessions of implicit bias training to help congregations be aware of their implicit/unconscious biases to improve the call process.
- Pr. Matt defined implicit bias and explained where they come from and why they are important.
- For next council meeting, keep track of where you notice implicit bias in your life

**Reports**

- Finance – Matt
  - See MCLC October Financial Report for Council
  - **Motion:** Accept report
    - Motioned: Helen; 2nd: Hillary; Result: Unanimously approved
- Pastor – Pastor Matt
  - Stewardship campaign will send out letter on Wednesday, Oct. 22. We are doing sealed pledges that will be returned to members mid-year (pledges will be locked in the safe until they are sent out)
  - Confirmation with St. Peders has had 4 sessions.
  - Pastoral care phone calls and texts have begun; Pr. Matt will start doing communion visits during Advent.
  - Pr. Matt had a boundaries training.

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- The Transition Team has finished updating our Ministry Site Profile.
- Some new visitors at church the last few weeks.
- Christmas Eve will have a morning service and an evening service of lessons and carols (4pm).

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

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- BOLD
  - BOLD voted to choose MCLC as the church they would like to meet at.
  - Conversation on Sunday, Nov. 26 after church (facilitated by Patty, Matt Sanders, Clea Medlock, Lisa Noel, Patt Botton, Richard, Pr. Matt, and others who are on the BOLD team)
    - Gather questions for the BOLD team to address
    - BOLD team can answer and discuss what we do know
      - Hand out half-sheet of paper with Office space, chapel, joint Sunday School, autonomous congregation
  - Congregational meeting on December 10 to vote on letting BOLD use our building.
- Executive - met about BOLD
- Family & Social Ministry
  - Will organize 3 game nights and 3 crafternoons this winter (January - March). They will use a Thrivent Card to pay for postcards to send out to the neighborhood.
- Nominating
  - Will probably meet Nov. 27 or 28 for their 1st meeting
  - Action Items: identify a lead and scribe; create a draft ballot for December council meeting (for approval at January meeting)
- Property
  - Met at 4:30pm, Nov. 21
  - Engineering inspection for roof repair after Thanksgiving
  - North emergency door - still working on installing it
  - Wifi update - Geek Squad came out earlier, but they have not responded to follow up; will explore other options
  - Building insurance premium is increasing 19% this year (we budgeted 5%) - Helen will call the insurance company to check on the increase and explore how a higher deductible would impact our premiums
- RIC
  - MCLC got its RIC certificate

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- Will start adding articles in the Illuminator to let people know about the RIC process
- Transition Team
  - Finished a final draft of the MSP for council approval
- Worship & Music
  - Met, with nothing major to report
  - Send a postcard to the neighborhood with Christmas Eve service information. Karen will contact Roxanne about creating a design

*Not reporting: Audit, Membership, Scholarship, MCL Foundation, WELCA, Family & Social Ministry, Budget & Finance, Stewardship*

**Old Business**

- Council/Committee Retreat Action Plan
  - Family and Social Ministry Committee - working on family game nights
  - Property Committee - working on internet
  - Worship and Music - outdoor service (wait until spring/summer)
  - Reach out to people - table until January
- Background Checks
  - Completed: Sophie
  - Next to complete: Executive Committee, Sunday School, tellers, organist (Richard)
- Stewardship - see Pastor's Report

**New Business**

- Council serves WELCA (Dec. 2)
  - Present: Erin, Helen, Hillary, Brenda, Karen
  - Brunch Potluck (for 15-20 people) - Helen will coordinate
- Annual Meeting
  - Date: February 4
  - Meeting Notice (agenda and documents) need 10 day notice (Jan. 25 at the latest) - draft agenda at December council meeting (finalize at January council meeting)
    - Agenda items: Budget, BOLD Update, Call Committee update, Picture restoration update
- DRAFT Ministry Site Profile (MSP)
  - Council made some recommended changes; Brenda will send out the changes for the Transition Team to review

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- Edited Part II Context, adjust Ministry Site Characteristics, add Reference's Recommendation (Todd Thomason) and add Outside Congregation Reference (Dave Rompa)
  - Pr. Matt will talk to Dave
  - Helen will talk to Todd
- **Motion:** Approve the MSP with council's recommendations, barring any objections from the Transition Team.
  - Motioned: Zack; 2nd: Helen; Result: Abstained: Pr. Matt | Yes: Roberta, Karen, Erin, Helen, Hillary, Zack, Brenda, Patty, Matt
- Call Committee
  - Next Step: Bishop Ann will come talk to the congregation about the call process
  - Call Committee members:
    - Confirmed: Brenda Robbins, Helen Holtti, Traci Dugan
    - Need to confirm: Susan Albers
    - Ask would you be willing to be on call committee: Scott (Matt), Lane (Matt), Dave Anderson (Karen), Rob Graber (Zack), Sam (Karen), Art (Karen)

Respectfully Submitted,

Zack Robbins  
Secretary