

Minutes of Congregational Council Meeting – Aug 27, 2023

Carolyn Howard opened the joint meeting of Finance and Council at 11:35 a.m.

Council Members Present: Carolyn Howard, Pastor Monica, Diane Catley, Karl Pedersen, Teresa Cassell, and Carla Liversedge.

- 1) Carla opened the joint meeting with devotions
- 2) Joint Council and Finance Committee Meeting (see attached minutes)

Council Meeting – opened at 12:35 p.m.

- 3) The agenda was approved with two additions

- 6D) Request from Finance
- 6E) Little Hokie Hangout

- 4) Consent Agenda - Council approved the consent agenda with highlights/questions on two items.

4A) Minutes from Jun 25, 2023 meeting

4B) Committee Reports - Carolyn addressed the request from Congregational Care about lower temperature settings in the church and low flow toilets. Property has been addressing both of those items. Danny Knott on the thermostat lowering request and how low flow toilets would replace those we currently have on an as needed.

Social Ministry's report was also addressed as it reflected that TOH will not be housed at Luther Memorial this coming year. The committee is requesting monetary donations which will go to the program. Carolyn wanted to know if members can still volunteer and Pastor Monica said yes. Volunteers could bring in dinners for example.

- 5) Unfinished Business

5A) Financials- Financial information was covered during the earlier combined meeting of Council and the Finance Committee. (See attached)

5B) Carolyn noted that she sent out a reminder to all convenors and committee chairs to have their Ministry Funding Plan Requests for 2024 into the finance committee by September 2.

5C) Property update- Pastor Monica reported additional mulch was added to the playground. There is a requirement for LHH to have a 9-inch mulch base for safety. Also, LHH requested coat hooks, which were added by Ray Riggins, and a larger sink, which Danny Knott is addressing. Ray also repaired a spicket that was leaking. Glenn Buss noticed that some of the molding between the windows on the back side of the church needed repair. Moisture and decomposition in the wood behind the aluminum panels around the windows is causing the panels to become loose and could possibly fall out. (These are the windows above the playground.) Pastor Monica said Marcia noted that the congregation still has \$11,000 in the

capital campaign account and so Pastor Monica made a motion that these funds be used to hire someone to repair this. The motion passed.

5D) The Well Campus Ministry – The new Well Board has met three times to work on the plans for the fall, recruit volunteers, and plan for the future of the program. Gobblerfest will kick off the fall program on September 1. With the help of volunteers, plans are in place for football parking, Tuesday night dinners, Bible study, and other church activities. Later in the fall Pastor Monica will work with the students to reinstate The Well Alumni Campaign. Pastor Monica also informed council that upon review of the work the congregation has done over the last few months, Virginia Synod plans to renew the \$20,000 grant to The Well for next year.

5E) The Alcohol Policy – Carolyn had a local attorney review our current proposed policy. Based on that review a final statement was drafted. She made a motion to approve this statement and it unanimously passed. The statement will appear on the receipts given out for football parking.

“Thank you for choosing to park here for the football game. Parking proceeds help to fund our campus ministry program -The Well. We ask that if you decide to consume alcohol, please do so responsibly, respecting each other and our property. Please place all garbage in the provided cans prior to your departure. We reserve the right to terminate your parking privilege in the event of inappropriate conduct. We pray that you enjoy your time in Blacksburg and have safe travels home!”

5F) Potential New Electronic Sign – Carolyn reported that the new electronic sign at the Church on the Main cost \$40,000. Therefore, council decided to postpone any decision for one at LMLC, although it was requested that Carolyn contact the vendor for a proposal.

5G) Digital Media Coordinator Search – After some research, Pastor Monica believes this will need to be divided position. One for web development and one for social media. Carol Webster recommended Linda Stamps for the web development and updates. She be contracted for the job at \$20/hr. with a cap of 10 hours a month. Linda does not want to do the social media portion of the job. Pastor Monica recommended that we speak to Ray Riggan about handling the social media posts. The position would be contracted for \$10/hr. with a \$225 cap per month. She made a motion to contract with both people starting October 1. The motion passed.

Pastor, in agreement with Marcia, recommended we stop the monthly newsletter starting November 1. They do not feel enough people read it for time it takes to put it together. The October newsletter would be the last. Karl requested that without the newsletter, it would be helpful for service volunteers to receive a monthly calendar by email to help them plan their schedule and find substitutes when necessary. Pastor Monica said that could be done. Based on feedback from the congregation this could change.

6) New Business

6A) Evangelism: Pastor Monica discussed how welcoming the congregation has been to the students as well as visitors, both new and returning.

6B) Nominating Committee: Elaine, Teresa, Karl, and Carolyn will be going off council at the end of the year. The Committee was asked to have nominee's names for the next term in to Carolyn by October 15.

6C) Worship and Music – Plans are being made for a community Reformation Concert on Sunday October 29 at 4:00 p.m. Worship and Music purchased a gently used 1 octave of handbells.

6D) Request from Finance – Carolyn made a motion to approve a request from Finance, in the earlier meeting, to rollover a \$75,000 CD that matures in September for better interest. The motion passed.

6E) Pastor Monica shared a letter from the Director of Little Hokie Hangout. The letter summarized the status of the program, how beneficial the program is to graduate students, and how many students have been served through the program. They are grateful for the partnership with Luther Memorial.

7) Executive Session

8) Council Roundtable – Pastor Monica informed council she will not serve a second term on Synod Council.

9) Pastor Monica closed the meeting with prayer.