

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 15, 2016**

**Attendees:** Pastor Nathan Hilkert, Gary Brinker, Phil Feibish, Beth Melendez, Keith Barton, Tegan Brown, Adam Annis Brown and Karen McIntyre. Wayne Fortune is absent due to illness and will be in our prayers for quick healing.

**Call to order** at 8:41

Order of Prayer and scripture reading. Romans 8: 14-17.

Good discussion followed.

Prayer closed at 8:58.

**Council Agenda:**

**Financials: Keith Barton and Beth Melendez**

Keith to get with Gary about Realm, Phil to assist. Main objective is to get pledges into system. We have decided to look for a replacement to Realm if we cannot get Realm to produce giving statements to congregants. It would be ideal to have email capability. Beth and Keith to look at profit and loss. We are behind on pledges. Beth used graphs to show trends. We need reminders of pledges, what campaigns our money supports, mainly our building and our many service/outreach ministries. We want to get away from the idea you just contribute to the one thing you care about. All our outreach efforts are important and must be supported as a whole. We will publicize certain ones periodically.

\*\*\*\*\*Beth to write a short letter to go in with statements.

\*\*\*\*\*Keith, Beth and Phil to get with Christine about Realm in the next 2weeks.

\*\*\*\*\*Adam to get Beth's giving graph to Christine for use in Bulletin.

Motion to approve financials by Adam/Tegan 2nd, all approved.

**Pastor's Report: Pastor Nathan Hilkert**

Report provided for review.

Discussion on, are we as leaders doing everything we can to deal with low membership attendance on Sunday's, was held...spurred on by a recent email Pastor received.

In conclusion, we agreed that many things are being done or are in place to be done such as:

- 1.) Postcards or phone calls to members from Pastor.
- 2.) Hospitality audits planned to start soon.
- 3.) The Way to begin this Wed. Night May 18th.

However, some ideas were discussed on these improvements:

- 1.) Fellowship Hour could use tweaking.

2.) Stronger Communication of everything to congregation.(maybe we need to have an audit)

**Outreach note:**

The DCM Decatur Shines at Messiah was held on April 15th and Messiah's choir sang as well as 5 other church choirs. Fun diverse music was enjoyed and DCM raised one thousand dollars for their permanent supportive housing.

\*\*\*\*Pastor will be out of the office on May 25th due to Lucy having tubes placed in her ears.

**Office and Music reports noted, no discussion.  
No report or requests from Smarties Day Care.**

**Council Retreat Goals and action item progress**

**Hospitality Audit:**

A sample survey was provided to council. It is intended to be used by our Secret Visitors. The survey consists of five questions and opportunities to grade and write out responses. \*\*\* Side note: I would ask if it was confusing about which door to enter from the parking lot as well. Signage/no signage?

**PAC= Program Action Committee**

Sample request form and project work plan form provided to council to review. Another form, the PAC status report is for council's use.

The other forms are for members to launch an idea, event, fundraiser etc. by way of request and outlining steps to achieving desired goals.

Discussion about the lingo and how to fill out forms: Members on council with experience in this method are to be available to members for help in understanding the form, as well as help in filling it out with member.

Each month the PAC meeting will take place these forms should be filled out and presented ( ahead time ideally) but may not always be possible.

The agenda for each meeting will be fueled by each project in different stages of progress. The congregation will begin to be notified about this new planning/approval/funding method by way of email and a meeting date to be set for sometime in June. ( to be determined ASAP)

**Science of Fun:**

Lease provided for council review. Gary Brinker and Beth Melendez met with Kris Webb and negotiated changes and her requests. Rent increase for afternoon enrichment and break camps obtained. Also, a fee for workshop use and rent late fees noted. Cleaning was addressed as well as an indemnity clause.

Keith Barton motioned to approve new lease with Science is Fun, Adam Annis-Brown with 2nd, all approved.

**New Business:**

Guatemala trip update provided by Adam Annis-Brown. Changes in persons going as well as a delegation from St. John's Lutheran is noted. St. John's has also entered into a partnership with La Resurrection in El Tuerto, Guatemala. Fundraising efforts so far is approximately \$1250.00. See report for more cost details and fundraiser events.

**Internship Committee**

Phil Feibish is heading up this initiative along with a few members.( Tabitha Brown, Beverly Clark, Ellie Feibish and Gary Brinker) A conference call to clarify responsibilities of committee was held with two members from the synod candidacy committee.

Our current intern, Tina Culpepper, has a project underway dealing with evangelism and outreach. Pastor reports Tina's work is going very well.

**Temple Talks to Share Council Work with the Congregation**

May Tegan

**Hired financial help**

Gary offered to relieve Keith of some of his duties by way of hired help. The position has always had too much assigned to it. Keith agrees. Gary wants Keith to continue doing payroll and will discuss things further with him later.

10:40 Meeting adjourned with a prayer from Gary Brinker.