

MSLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 31, 2020

The May 2020 council meeting began at 12:44 p.m. and was held via Zoom videoconference (after resolving technical issues) due to the CoVID19 pandemic. “Present” were Pastor John; (President) Mark Paulson; (Vice President) Arja Owens; (Secretary) Sarah Hollingsworth; Liz Baker; Al Carr; Alyssa Darstein; Cindy Fliss; Gail Frankenburg; Tom Freeburn; Jack Miller; and Andrea Towner. Andrea Comer was excused absent. Due to the unique circumstances, several “normal” agenda items¹ were postponed.

After Pastor John led the council in devotions and caring conversation about where we see the Spirit leading us and working with us in our efforts now, and leading the council in prayer, the council discussed leadership via communication - especially regarding how and when to return as safely as possible for in-person worship/meetings/etc. and still follow the advice of experts and governmental leaders [and as referenced in Pastor John’s report]. The Safety Team would serve as a “clearing house” for those efforts. The **April minutes were briefly reviewed and approved (2020.05.1).**

The recent Synod recommendations for “reopening” for ministry were also reviewed and discussed at some length.

Pastor John’s report was reviewed; his recommendation to ratify the online vote to approve Outreach Endowment Task Team’s recommendation² was briefly reviewed and the Team’s recommendation was ratified (2020.05.2). Pastor John’s report was also approved (2020.05.3).

The general topic of technological issues with online worship broadcast quality was discussed and reviewed as to what may be needed to get that improved. (Basically the largest issue is upload bandwidth, an issue with our telecom provider – which will be addressed promptly. In addition, certain hardware is being replaced which should solve the “gapping” between audio and visual tracks. Another piece may be accelerating staffing the part-time IT position. In

¹The coaching on points of discipleship, Safety Task Team recommendation discussion, and small group/outreach program analysis were postponed – possibly to the next in-person meeting.

²The Outreach Endowment Task Team’s recommendation requested the approval of a \$29,000 expenditure from the -02 Outreach Endowment Fund (current balance of more than \$44,000) as follows:

- \$10,000 to the Charlotte Men’s Shelter to support construction of a new Shelter;
- \$3,000 to the MSLC Lutheran Men in Mission’s Men’s Shelter ministry to provide for care kits, meals, and other supplies;
- \$4,500 to support Weekend Meals for Needy Students program hosted by Lebanon Road Elementary School and supported by the congregation (Social Ministry Mission Team);
- \$5,000 to the Matthews Help Center to support needy families in the community, especially since MSLC hasn’t been able to provide our regular 2nd Sunday canned food collection;
- \$5,000 to Servant’s Heart in Mint Hill to support needy families in the community;
- \$500 to Agape-Kure Beach Ministries, to offset the loss of income and programming by not having Day Camp at MSLC;
- \$500 to Manos de Jesus in Chichicastanengo, Guatemala, to support the Guatemalan staff’s salaries for the week of our cancelled 2020 Mission Trip; and
- \$500 to the Quilting Ministry at MSLC that supports the work of Lutheran World Relief.

addition, prerecording at least some portions of the service and possibly moving to “drive-in” services and the requisite logistics of that were also discussed.)

The council then moved on to Mission Team Reports.

- Of note, the Finance Mission Team highlighted the facts that (1) the congregation is still giving at a high rate for both the CFA and general giving given current events, to the point of being able to make additional principal payments and (2) expenses are being kept in line or reduced. (Payroll Protection stimulus funds received must be used for salary and salary-related items, in addition to other requirements, in order to be considered a grant rather than a loan to be repaid.)
- **Worship & Music Recommendation:** The Worship and Music Team recommended that we prepare to reopen our Worship Center for in-person Worship by planning on **2 services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. for the summer months with cleaning to be done between the services.** In order to comply with the State of North Carolina, and the guidelines of the ELCA, we are going to modify the Worship Service. Until we receive additional guidance, there will be **no congregational singing, no choir, no wind instruments, and no Communion.** The Worship Center will be temporarily modified to allow for social distancing and reduced contamination. We will strongly recommend that worshipers wear face coverings, and they will be made available in the Narthex. We will prepare to have overflow seating available in the FLC gym for the early services. The recommendation was discussed and **approved (2020.05.4).**

Arja Owens then briefly reviewed the remaining Mission Team reports and Deacon Wendy’s report. As there were no other actionable items in any team reports, the Team Reports were **approved (2020.05.5).**

The council meeting concluded with announcements, which included:

- Correspondence received: thank-you notes for Morning Star Meals, to be publicized in the Beacon.
- Upcoming Ministry Dates: **Next Council Meeting June 28 - 12:30 p.m. (most likely by Zoom teleconference again)**
- Takeaways for congregation and mission teams:
 - (1) Discussions continue regarding “re-entry” processes and procedures;
 - (2) Online worship improvement efforts continue;
 - (3) Giving has been strong, especially in light of recent events;
 - (4) Morning Star Meals will continue to be publicized and to be a blessing to the community, and if additional needs are realized please contact Rosie Fuller, Cindy Fliss, Al Carr, Gary Greffrath, or Stephanie Bauer.

The May 2020 regular council meeting then adjourned with one-word reflections and group prayer at approximately 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Hollingsworth,
Church Council Secretary

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Future Dates to Keep In Mind:

- **June 28 regular council meeting with AGT planning, 12:30 p.m.: Tom Freeburn – lunch***
- *July 26 regular council meeting, 12:30 p.m.: Sarah Hollingsworth – lunch**
- *August 23 regular council meeting, 12:30 p.m.: Gail Frankenburg – lunch**
- *August 24 All Mission Team Night*
- *Fall worship schedule TBA*
- *September 11-13 God's Work Our Hands WEEKEND*
- *September 27 regular council meeting, 12:30 p.m.: Mark Paulson - lunch*
- **October 25 regular council meeting but at 1:00 p.m. to follow Trunk R Treating after the 11:00 a.m. service with LGT planning: Liz Baker - lunch*
- *November 8 Congregational Hearing*
- *November 15 Congregational Meeting*
- *December mini-retreat TBA*