

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes**

May 8, 2025, 2025 | 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Attendance: Present: Breanna Dauphinee; Jeff Gerstenberger; Jim Hartmann; Lisa Klima; Andy Mitchell; Pastor Aileen Robbins; Laurie Simonson; Mark Sutliff; Sheri Treadwell; Amy Trichanh; Paul Williams;

Devotions and Prayer: **Leader:** Breanna Dauphinee
Themes: Mystical Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:20-25)

Agenda Review: • No additions or changes.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: • April 10, 2025
 • No changes or additions. Accepted as written!

Financial Reports: **April 2025 Reports:**
Andy opened space for questions.

- Laurie appreciated the synopsis.
- Andy gave special thanks and affirmation for Julie's hard work with this.
- Jeff added a comment about keeping an eye on the food pantry designated funds at just about \$20,000.
- Jim asked about potential food pantry gifts were given. There was some grant money used for the month.

Ministry Team Reports: **Property:**

- Report was sent ahead of time.
- No problems with the elevator (4-year contract with Otis). Lower doors are opened once a month to make sure everything is okay in the pit.
- Emergency exit lighting for sanctuary is an issue. Power is back feeding to the circuit breaker.
- Just recently one of the lights facing the cross doesn't consistently come on. Some other sanctuary lights are also not reliably working. Installation was around 2010. We're not going to update dead lightbulbs until there are multiple lights.
- There is a water issue near the conference room window looking directly at English Rd. the County came to look at the issue and "broke" their camera. There is a cone in the parking lot with another water issue. Paul will keep an eye on it and keep following up with the county.
- Paul considering new water sensors.
- The north entrance door into the sanctuary is not working. You can't get in from the outside. Its being held shut with a magnetic lock.
- Lawn/ landscaping is okay. The garden by the sign was made smaller in 2024.

Meeting Minutes Submitted By: Breanna Dauphinee

Date: 05/17/2025 **Time:** 07:50 p.m.

- The parking lot west side is looking beaten up. We can make it about 2 years before any work is needed.
- AC system is working okay.
- Boilers did good this winter. It was cold. The small boiler stopped working for a while. There is a sensor watching to make sure the exhaust fan is running. It is thought to be a bad switch.
- Utility costs will be much higher this year. We should consider going up next year. We try to keep the heat down in the winter and more neutral in the summer.
- The latest problem, as of this week, is that the phone system that the alarm used was changed when we switched to the new VOIP office phone system.
- There is a fire alarm panel in the robing room that needs a dedicated line. West fire was here for 3 hours today and could not find the shared line x4379. Someone needs to find the line and pull it to the boiler room. This will be addressed when Paul returns from vacation. Jim reminded Paul that the lines come in through Fellowship Hall.

Paul asked if there were any questions:

- Are computers updated to windows 11? Windows 10 will no longer be supported in October. Counting Room, and Cathy's Office are all set. AV team is also all set. The computer used for the doors to open the doors is windows XP, but is not connected to the internet.

Other Business: GFL Spring Assembly Report (Bree):

- Theme was collaboration.
- Bree lost a game of rock paper scissors.
- There was conversation regarding opportunity for collaboration within congregation.
- More lay members than clergy were in attendance.
- Information about laundry ministry was discussed. This ministry was explained that a congregation and a local laundromat have a partnership to run a regularly scheduled 'event' where people in need would have access to laundry services.
- Puzzle Piece Topics (Ideas from other congregations at the Assembly) include: an enneagram group, young adult group, external service teams (partnering with local nonprofits like Cameron Street Ministries or House of Mercy), laundry ministry (as noted above), and partnerships / community building with other local RIC Congregations.

MELC Policy Document Review: (requested changes)

- Review pieces of current ministry team and bring updates before the next set of updates.
- While Andy facilitates the finance policy, Andy asked for resources on where to find information on making or rewriting a good policy.

- We should be mindful that the language is inclusive.

Pride / LGBTQIA Flag:

- Back in April, Sheri emailed Paul requesting him to look at the chains. He said things have been hung there before. Paul said he can adjust the spacing between the chains.
- It was asked if it would be good to put weights at the bottom.
- We're working on a grant from the endowment. It is important to get the flag instead of wait for completion of the logo.
- The size of the flag (4x6) was chosen to keep it from being tampered with or stolen.
- Discussion of where the money comes from. Andy suggested one grant for the flag and one grant for everything else. The flag and the grant should be completed in parallel. Pastor will get the flag, and Sheri will finalize the grant.

Congregation Events Calendar:

- Monitor was used in the narthex was being used for the CROP walk.
- An old PC laptop was used.
- It was suggested that google slides/ shared google document be used.
- It was asked if ministry leaders would be responsible for adding information for their own teams, so Cathy would only have to update the general calendar.
- How is this different from what Dave is doing? Its more accessible to visitors and engaging the community with highlights. It provides opportunity for information to be shared. This allows space to go more in depth than the regular calendar.
- Who would be responsible for system being turned on and off? Could we include this in AV team responsibilities.
- Is it an option to add slides into the AV system before worship? How is the intro loop being related to?
- The increased ways that information is being shared, the more of a chance it will be seen.
- Could we have a second screen in the basement during coffee hour screen?
- Could we put the slides on the screen during the postlude? – a few people thought this was a good idea. This is a good thing to bring to the W&M team.
- It would be nice to have the option for both, especially for events like funerals.

Other- Communications:

- Paul asked a question for communications team regarding why he was suggested as the person who could take or provide photos for the website.
- We would like some parameters regarding photos that **CAN** be used.
- Don Littlejohn taking a course on using Adobe Photoshop.

Other- Adult Faith Formation:

- Lisa had her first meeting.

Called into community, gifted to serve. Glorifying God through love in action.

- Came up in the Adult Faith Formation meeting regarding training for greeting skills. Lisa asked for council opinion.
- It is agreed that we don't do well with this.
- What is greeting? How are we welcoming new people, and how are we making existing people feel included.
- It has become too common to not talk to new people. While we're a friendly congregation, it would be helpful to have resources on how to approach people without creating that awkward feeling for either party.
- Could this be an extended coffee hour or a promo skit? – Andy and Bree offered to help with a funny temple talk.
- Use of humor was considered.

Next Meeting:

- June 5, 2025 | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **on zoom**

Extended Report: (none) | **Devotions and Prayer:** Lisa

- Council Summer Party @ Pastor Aileen's house. (July 27 @2PM)

Closing Prayer: Breanna Dauphinee