Minutes from the 112th annual meeting of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, January 31, 2016

President Sara Jensen welcomed members and, with a quorum present, called the meeting to order. At 12:30 pm. Invocation was given by Vice President Josh Becker.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Kari Kleven presented the 2015 annual meeting minutes which had been approved by the Church Council. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting, January 25, 2015. Motion carried. She then called attention to the parish statistics on page 6 of the report which showed an increase of baptized membership from 1,187 to 1,194 during the year. Average worship attendance at the end of the year was 216.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Sara Jensen reported that it’s been an exciting year at Holy Trinity and she has enjoyed being our President.

PASTORS’ REPORTS

Pastor Carlson invited to reflect on special moments during the past year. There are many ways to tell the story of Holy Trinity. We can point to our history, current programming, and progress on congregational goals. Above all, we are a part of God’s story of love for the world. Pastor Rasmussen shared a radio segment titled “In the Arctic Circle, the Sun Will Come Up after 58 Tomorrows” to describe how we are continuing to practice vulnerability and deepen connections in this congregation. We are not alone. We will see one another in all of our brokenness and in all of our belovedness.

CONGREGATIONAL GOALS #1 and #2

Libby Olstad reflected on goal #1: Nurture faith, life, and relationships in worship experiences, small groups, and meaningful volunteer opportunities. She described her experience of becoming a new member and quickly getting involved. Racial justice discussion groups were one important way in particular she has found to share life and faith with others.

Theresa Rian reflected on goal #2: Grow in ministry with children, youth, and families. This is a goal not just for some but for the whole congregation. Studies have shown the importance of unrelated adults taking an interest in youth; it’s also true that these relationships are beneficial for the faith and life of adults. There are many opportunities for adults to help support young people at Holy Trinity. We are currently working with Interserve, and we are requesting everyone to complete an online survey.

 TREASURER’S REPORT Presented by Laura and Gary (Financial Stewardship Chair)

Laura called the congregation’s attention to the congregational financial statements on pages 9 and 10. Both our receipts and expenditures were under budget by about $17,300. We also had successful appeals for ELCA World Hunger and Longfellow Alternative School. Receipts for the Opening Doors building renovation fund in 2015 were $74,130.00. A motion was made and seconded that the congregation accept the balance sheet as presented. Gary then gave a brief explanation of the endowment funds, reporting that we have significantly over one million dollars in total endowment funds.

CONGREGATIONAL GOAL #3

Randy Nelson reflected on goal #3: Grow in intercultural understanding and competence. This was begun with the Intercultural Development Inventory process a few years ago, when Council, committee chairs, and staff took the inventory and attended a workshop. Continuing to grow in this area is important for all programs and groups of the congregation. Racial justice discussion groups have been meeting. Staff are also having these conversations. Adult Education will continue to address intercultural learning and racial justice during the year.

ELECTION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Sara presented the slate of candidates as prepared by the Nominating Committee: Judy Davison, Chris Engen, David Krig, Roberta Shaw. Sara called three times for additional nominations from the floor and, receiving none, declared the nominations closed. There was a call for a voice vote. A motion was made and seconded to amend procedure. Motion carried. A motion was made and seconded that the slate of four candidates for the 2016 Church Council be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

The slate for the 2016 Nominating Committee was presented: Sharon Englund, Alyssa Erickson, Bob Hulteen, and Bruce Martens, in addition to outgoing council members Sara Jensen, Gerry Berglin, Laura Bolstad, and Sean Gosiewski.

CONGREGATIONAL GOAL #4

Dennis Nordholm reflected on goal #4: Advocate for alternative energy sources and payday lending regulations. Advocacy on important social issues has a long history in our congregation. Currently, we continue to seek reform of payday lending practices and will host a summit about that issue in a couple of weeks. This year we have also given special attention to supporting alternative energy sources for our church and our homes. As part of our wind power campaign, not only did the church sign up for windsource energy through our utility company but 65 Holy Trinity households did as well. Similarly, the church has applied for a subscription to community solar garden and we are inviting Holy Trinity households to do the same. The wind and solar campaigns were supported in worship, forums, dialogue events, and Sunday School. The property committee continues to seek ways of reducing our energy use.

PROPOSED BUDGET AND SPECIAL APPEALS FOR 2016

Treasurer Bolstad called attention to the proposed 2016 budget on page 14. The budget includes an increase to $750,500. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2015 budget. Motion carried.

Laura reported that the Financial Stewardship Committee and Church Council have authorized appeals for the following special funds in 2016: ELCA World Hunger and Refugee Resettlement (through Lutheran Social Service and MN Council of Churches). A motion was made and seconded to approve ELCA World Hunger and Refugee Resettlement as the 2016 special appeals. Motion carried.

CONGREGATIONAL GOAL #5

Deb Sodt and Scott Cole reflected on goal #5: launch a capital campaign for building renovation.

Deb reported that it has been an amazing to see the design for the building renovation come together and thanked everyone for their contributions. Based on all of the ideas generated by this community, we believe that we’ve created a renovation project that moves us toward greater hospitality, accessibility, and safety for all people. About 150 subcontractors toured the renovations spaces last week and submitted proposals to our general contractor, Watson Forsberg, who will soon guide us through the bids we have received. In the selection process, we will take seriously the Church Council’s two directives—that is, a commitment to firms owned and operated by women and people of color and a commitment to firms that demonstrate a care of creation that aligns with our values. This next week, we will meet with the city of Minneapolis to ensure that they support the vision of this project. Our meeting will include a representative from the fire department (fire wall questions), a representative from zoning (regarding adjacent properties), and a representative from inspections (plan review and permits). We expect to break ground in 9 weeks. Beginning in early April, the east entrance will be unavailable. Our contractor will ensure that we have a temporary accessible entrance at the church building’s north doors (the door nearest to the public library). They know this temporary entrance will be extremely important for our community and for our building partners like MetroWork. Construction time will be about four months.

NEW BUSINESS

A suggestion was made to review the pastors’ salaries and consider an increase in recognition of their good work. After more discussion, another suggestion was made to include other church staff in the salary review. A motion was made and seconded: to “encourage the Personnel Committee to have conversations about how to adjust/improve the pastors’ and staff’s salaries.” Motion passed.

As there was no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

END OF MEETING NOTES