

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Monday, December 19, 2016

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Present: *Council members:* Jay Carlson, Ingrid Rasmussen, Sara Jensen, Laura Bolstad, Melanie Townsend, Gerry Berglin, Cliff Brown, Julie Cahoy, Judy Davison, Chris Engen, Sean Gosiewski, David Krig, and Roberta Shaw. *Guest:* Vicki Mann.

Absent: Martin Raabe and Theresa Rian.

Call to Order: Sara Jensen called the meeting to order, after a holiday dinner was shared at Pastor Jay's house at 7:38 pm.

1. Devotions: Roberta Shaw led us in devotions.

2. Check in: Members shared important events from the past month.

3. Approve minutes from previous meeting: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

4. Reports:

a. Vice President:

- Theresa wished us all a peaceful Christmas from England.

b. President:

- Nothing to report.

c. Secretary:

- Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 pm. Sara Jensen volunteered to lead us in devotions and Gerry Berglin volunteered to provide refreshments.

d. Treasurer

- On the YTD comparison worksheet, we are on pace with where we were last year with respect to budget requirements and budget receipts. We may need to use Pafko funds to offset the budget, as we did last year.
- We are doing better than last year in the Special Funds category, receiving over \$11k so far this year, whereas last year we had only received roughly \$8k by this time.
- Opening Doors has received \$397,771.97 thus far.
- The budget comparison and variance sheet shows that office expenses were over budget due to moving office spaces and laptop purchases. The line item for properties is currently under budget, however, there are several building maintenance issues that will be addressed in December to bring us more within the budgeted amount.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial reports. Motion carried.

e. Associate Pastor

- Nothing to report.

f. Lead Pastor

- Nothing to report.

5. Committee Reports:

a. Nominating Committee (Laura Bolstad reporting)

- The following individuals have been identified by the nominating committee as candidates for next year's Council. All have agreed to serve the terms listed, pending congregational approval at the annual meeting in January:
 - Bryan Kuzel (3 yrs), Michael Douglas (3 yrs), John Sulzbach (3 yrs), Juliann Breting Rohn (3 yrs), and Andrea Martin (1 yr).

b. Budget Questions

- During the most recent Stewardship and Finance Committee meeting, they started working on the 2017 budget. Personnel asked for a \$60,000 increase in their budget (from \$480,000 to \$540,000). After much discussion, the committee felt that \$500,000 would be a more supportable number given current income expectations. That number was communicated back to Personnel for their consideration.
- As a Council, we discussed the impact of this increase. At this time, the \$20,000 increase in Personnel would be sufficient to cover the salary of the Parish Outreach Coordinator position. We are also in need of increasing office staff time as well as increasing the salaries of our pastors.
- Discussion continued around the contribution that our congregation gives to the synod and how the synod uses those funds. Among other things, the synod uses the money it receives from congregations to start up new missions, provide position search services, coordinate interim pastors, organize the synod assembly, and fund eco-faith network efforts. 50% of the funds given to the synod go to the Minneapolis area synod office, while the other 50% goes to the national church office. The synod will be launching its own capital campaign shortly.
- Presently, Holy Trinity allocates 18.6% of its regular annual giving to the synod, which amounts to \$96,000. We have the highest contribution rate in the Minneapolis synod. The standard expectation by the synod is for congregations to contribute 10%.
- A motion was made as follows: The Council recommends that the Stewardship and Finance Committee consider budgeting \$75,000 for synod giving and dedicate offset funds towards Personnel as they are able. Motion was seconded and approved. Motion carried.

6. Unfinished Business: A motion was made and seconded to approved the proposed 2017 congregational goals listed below. Motion carried.

- (1) Deepen our commitment to creative, inspiring, and culturally competent worship services and the accompanying music program for all ages.
- (2) Grow in competence related to issues of race, class, and gender in our congregational life, and join with community partners working at these intersections.
- (3) Together, with the larger Church, seek to build the commonwealth of God through welcoming the stranger, accompanying the vulnerable, and caring for creation.
- (4) Assist members of all ages in connecting Christian faith with life in the public square.
- (5) Create space for new members to share their gifts and build relationships.

7. New Business:

a. Introduction to the Sanctuary Congregation Program.

- In response to the results of the most recent presidential election, Isaiah – Faith in Democracy has rallied to create this program.
- Would allow persons safe harbor after a deportation order has been given.
- Six Holy Trinity members have already attended training sessions to gain more information.
- Information packets were given to Council members to read through and ponder until the January meeting, at which time we will discuss either becoming a Sanctuary Church or a Supporting Church.

8. Discussion

No further discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Townsend