

## Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

January 14, 2014

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

---

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Sunday, January 19, 2014**

**Devotions:** N/A

**Refreshments:** N/A

---

**Present:** Council members: Ingrid Rasmussen, Jay Carlson, Sara Jensen, Bruce Johnson, Dennis Nordholm, Drew Lindorfer, Mary Engen, Pam Blomgren, Randy Nelson, Joyce Peterson, Korla Masters, Kari Kleven, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser

**Absent:** Anna Brelje, Josh Becker, Bruce Martens, Mark Holm, Laura Bolstad

**Call to Order:** Jeff Olsen Biebighauser called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**Devotions:** Joyce Peterson read Matthew 7:7 “Ask and it will be given you...” and shared a scene from the film *Evan Almighty*.

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

**Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 16, 2013 Council minutes. Motion carried.

### Reports

#### *Lead Pastor:*

- Tanzania trip: A group of 13 will leave next Saturday and return February 11.
- Attendance was up to 201 average attendance per week for the year, the first time it has been over 200 in many years.
- Conference assemblies will be February 9. Holy Trinity will need representatives. The synod assembly will be in May. The creation care group may bring a memorial to the synod assembly proposing divestment from fossil fuel companies. Other congregations are also interested in bringing the same type of resolution to the conference assemblies. The creation care team will be representing themselves, not the congregation, at the conference assembly. The assembly will be held in Blaine. Anyone can attend.
- Personnel Committee report: The organizing position is assumed to be full-time in the 2014 budget. Outside staffing aid is included for JRLC to pay a portion of the position’s salary during legislative session. Payday lending will be one of the main issues for JRLC this legislative session. The position was increased to full time January 1. Changes have been made to the organist position from last meeting. Jeff Olsen Biebighauser will discuss further.

*Associate Pastor:*

- Visitors: New visitor cards have been placed in the pews. If you see visitors, please point out the cards, help them with the communion process, and introduce them to one of the pastors.
- New member process: A new member welcome team will work with new members in a broader capacity. In addition to helping welcome new members on March 2, this group will also act as “sherpas” to help shepherd new members throughout their first year at Holy Trinity. On March 2, new members will have the opportunity to introduce themselves at adult forum.
- Confirmation retreat will take place this weekend.

*Treasurer:*

- YTD Comparison: No report as only covers 2 weeks.
- Income Statement: 2013 was a very good year. We were within 99% of meeting the budget and would have been over if funds from the Pafko estate had been used. Envelope offerings were over 100%, which is unusual and seasonal offerings were at 142% of budget. Interest and earnings were very good. Attendance average over 200 per week.
- Dedicated funds: Exodus Lending gift – financial stewardship has determined that \$14,754.40 will come out of the 40% large estate fund. Discussion followed regarding the Ladwig Estate breakdown and remaining funds.

A motion was made and seconded that \$14,754.40 be used from the 40% Large Estate Fund to be used for the Exodus Lending launch gift that was approved at the December council meeting. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

- Surplus of income from last year goes to the fund balance, which is not reflected in the dedicated reports. A brief discussion followed of how dedicated accounts are accounted for. The external audit was completed today with no concerns from the auditor. A suggestion was made that a brief review of financial reports be made at the February meeting for the new council members.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

*Secretary:*

- No report.

*Vice President:*

- No report.

*President:*

- Annual meeting: Bring two salads to share.
- Personnel committee: Changes have been discussed regarding worship staffing structure. At the December meeting, a combined organist/choir director position was shared as the committee’s recommendation. Many conversations have occurred since then regarding the proposed change. Rick Prescott is now committed to staying in position that he

currently has and personnel committee will be coming up with a job description for the organist that will incorporate the worship planning needs of congregation. Discussion followed, including worship planning concerns, personnel committee process, timing of new job description and filling of the position, and lessons learned.

- Adult forum will be a preview of the annual meeting. Council members' presence is encouraged.

### **Committee highlights:**

Many committees had not met since the last council meeting.

#### *Peace with Justice*

- A lunch discussion will be held February 23 about actions that were brainstormed related to climate change after symposium.
- The committee will begin working with a new refugee family in March.

#### *Youth*

- Annual pancake breakfast will be February 23. Tickets will be sold starting at annual meeting. Bakers are welcome for the bake sale.

#### *Property*

- The process to get solar electric is starting again. Funds will be available by lottery through the state. Dave Moe will discuss at the annual meeting.

#### *Financial stewardship*

- Boiler – Still need to raise \$36,000; 85% of funds have been collected to date. The \$18,000 match has been received from the Kellys. Construction should begin in May. A final bid will come from the contractor soon, but no significant increase is expected. The hope is to raise the remaining balance by end of April; there will be boiler fund envelopes and a presentation at the annual meeting. A bit of money will be saved by subcontracting asbestos removal and some other things. The new boiler will be much more efficient.

#### *Children Youth and Family*

- The family retreat will take place the weekend of Valentine's Day – those under 4 are free, kids \$40, adults \$60. Curriculum is not yet finalized, but there will be opportunities for inter- and intra-family time and some type of worship. The retreat will be at a center outside of Annandale.

### **New Business:**

#### *Annual meeting counters*

Counters will be needed if the vote goes to a full ballot. Korla Masters, Joyce Peterson, and Mary Engen volunteered to serve as counter should the need arise.

### *2014 nominating committee*

The committee consists of the four outgoing council members, plus four others. This year the other proposed members are: Jody Liedholm, Andrea Hansen, Peter Johnson and Mark Hiner.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the four nominees. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

### *2014 Budget*

Pledges for 2013 came to \$383,710 with 135 pledges; this year, the number of pledges increased to 139 to date and the amount has increased to \$34,491. Offerings are budgeted for 9% higher than actual receipts last year. The \$10,000 budgeted for future staffing was not used last year; \$35,000 is budgeted for this year. The proposed budget increase for the year is \$70,750. The organist position is budgeted as half time, using guild standards to determine the estimate. The worship and fine arts budget was increased in an attempt to stay within budget next year since they went over budget in 2013. Increases in property are due to routine cost increases. Youth increase has to do with additional events and because of the inclusion of the children youth and family group. Nurturing increase will be used for grief ministry. A discussion of what grief ministry will entail.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend the proposed 2014 budget to the congregation for adoption at the annual meeting. Motion carried.

Thanks were offered to members who are going off council.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Drew Lindorfer, Secretary

**END OF MEETING NOTES**

## APPENDIX

### COMMITTEE REPORTS January, 2014

#### **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

- Will meet on Monday, 1/13.

#### **ORGANIZING**

- Continued corresponding with Dorsey & Whitney legal team regarding the incorporation of Exodus Lending. The process is ongoing and it seems that some adjustments to our model may have to be made.
- The Exodus Steering Committee has a meeting with the COO of Sunrise Banks at the end of January to continue to conversation about a potential partnership through Exodus Lending.
- Minnesotans for Fair Lending, the coalition established by HT and JRLC is growing and getting ready for an exciting legislative session. Meghan and Jay are on the MFL steering committee and Meghan chairs the organizing team for the campaign, which includes several HT members as well as other activists from a variety of organizations.
- JRLC's Day on the Hill is on March 13 and we're hoping to have a great turnout from HT. Payday Lending will be one of the top issues of the day.
- HT will be one of several churches planning/participating in a Palm Sunday Procession through the neighborhood. Look for more information soon.

**PERSONNEL** has been meeting a lot recently related to the organist/music position, personnel budget, etc.

**PROPERTY** is in the process of obtaining bids for the new boiler.

**YOUTH** did not meet this month.

- A decision was made to go to the Heifer Ranch with the youth next summer, July 19-27.
- We are organizing the annual pancake breakfast and bake sale for February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **PEACE WITH JUSTICE**

- Further discussion on possible Climate Change Actions: Sunday, Feb. 23 at 12:15  
Peace with Justice and Creation Care Team will have a light sandwich lunch and host a discussion of Climate Change actions generated after the Symposium with Dr. Larry Rasmussen. Possible actions include advocacy at local and state levels, outreach to other Lutheran congregations in our synod, and individual and congregational actions to lower our carbon footprint. Please come if you are interested in learning more about these actions and would like to know how you can help or share in our discussion.
- Martha Mueller will be our Chair for 2014.
- Sign up will begin soon for those interested in helping to work with a refugee family who may be arriving by March.