

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

October 21, 2013

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, November 18, 2013

Devotions: Josh Becker Refreshments: Josh Becker

Present: Council members: Jay Carlson, Laura Bolstad, Sara Jensen, Ingrid Rasmussen, Drew Lindorfer, Dennis Nordholm, Bruce Johnson, Joyce Peterson, Mary Engen, Randy Nelson, Mark Holm, Anna Brelje, Josh Becker, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser, Korla Masters, Kari Kleven; Church Administrator: Vicki Mann

Absent: Pam Blomgren, Bruce Martens

Call to Order: Jeff Olsen Biebighauser called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Devotions: Mary Engen shared some steps suggested in Joanna Macy's and Chris Johnstone's book *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy*, which ties into the congregation's current theme of climate change and creation care, as well as Psalm 121 that was sung during Sunday's worship service.

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

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

Reports

Lead Pastor:

- Organist search:
 - Tim Buendorf, interim organist, will be at Holy Trinity through Pentecost in early June
 - A search committee will be assembled in early January
 - Personnel Committee plans to have a job description ready to post before Christmas and the new organist would be in place by Easter
 - The search committee will bring its recommendation to Council for review
 - The interim organist will most likely not be considered for the full time post – when he was hired, he expressed interest in interim ministry and not a long-term commitment
 - Due to the organist change, there will not be daily Advent morning prayer services this year

Associate Pastor:

- Pastor Rasmussen reported how excited she is to have just finished her first month as Associate Pastor of Holy Trinity
- New member process:
 - New members will be welcomed twice a year in October and February
 - 12 new members joined this October; 5 have already expressed interest in the February new member class
 - Information sessions will be held about what membership looks like at Holy Trinity
 - Currently, a three-part introductory series is being offered. Prospective, new and old members are welcome. The topics are:
 - The Bible – October 16 (13 attended)
 - Lutheranism – October 23
 - Worship – October 30

Discussion followed regarding new member photos and the new nametags for the congregation.

Treasurer:

- YTD Comparison: 2012 receipts included \$10,000 for future staffing not included this year. The special appeal for the food shelf has been very successful this year. Boiler funds have gone up slightly: \$180,000 is currently available; \$60,000 remains to be raised, a portion of which will be matched by the Kellys. Boiler installation will go ahead in the spring regardless of whether all funds have been raised.
- Income Statement: Income exceeds expenses year to date. Income is under budget, but it is normal for additional funds to be raised toward year end. \$10,000 is budgeted to be transferred from the Pafko Fund for staffing. Property will be over budget for the year, due to some unforeseen repairs, including the fourth floor windows that were paid for in October. Personnel is currently under budget, but will be very close to budget with the addition of the new pastor.
- Dedicated accounts: Trudy Ladwig's estate – the second and final installment of \$64,000 has been received. This amount is higher than expected. These funds will be allocated by the same process as the first portion of the estate.

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

Secretary:

- Devotions and refreshments reminder.

Vice President:

- Peace with Justice sent its meeting notes – will read during committee information sharing

President:

- Youth had their first lock in using the sky room; it was greatly enjoyed and is a good use of the space

- There have been ongoing conversations with Christian Education and Outreach about intercultural outreach and considerations. The November 3rd adult form will cover these issues.

Committee Goals: Nurturing

Joyce Peterson presented the following goals for the current year:

1. Provide three Loaves and Fishes meals throughout year
2. Coordinate lay communion ministry for those unable to attend worship; Pastor Rasmussen will be helping with this going forward
3. Facilitate intentional and welcoming interactions in a variety of settings. Examples include:
 - First musings being held at Mosaic
 - Helping get new members onto committees
4. Organize at least three adult fellowship events. Examples include:
 - Progressive dinner
 - Game night
 - Theology discussion
 - Lutheran night at Twins
 - 50s and 60s group
5. Promote fellowship projects that include at least 10 people. This goal has been harder to achieve, but the committee hopes to revive somewhat with Pastor Rasmussen's help. Examples include:
 - Fellowship dinners/lunches
6. Retreat in conjunction with Christian Education
7. Explore with Outreach the possibility of an interactive members section on Holy Trinity's website.

The committee expects these goals with remain fairly similar in 2014. Joyce Peterson answered questions about the committee's goals and the various activities they promote.

The Housing Social Service Committee will present its goals at the November meeting to coincide with the 10-year anniversary of Trinity on Lake. Financial Stewardship will present in December and Outreach will present in January.

Standing Committees: Committee reports were sent out ahead of the Council meeting (see appendix). Jeff Olsen Biebighauser called for a brief discussion of specific items committees would like to draw attention to.

Christian Education

- The Johnson Symposium is in less than three weeks. Please sign up if you haven't yet. Dr. Rasmussen will specifically discuss what the Lutheran tradition brings to the climate change discussion.
- An estate gift is expected in the amount of \$15,000 to \$20,000 to be put toward a seminarian fund. A proposal has been put together for the donor. Grants from the

fund would probably be \$1,000 per year. The gifted funds would be expected by year end.

- One week left to sign up for the Tanzania trip; 13 or 14 are currently registered.
- A trip to Germany on eve of Reformation is being planned for spring 2016.

Peace with Justice

- The creation care team will meet prior to the Symposium
- There is a plan to assist a refugee family this spring; Holy Trinity typically provides aid for four months after the family arrives

Financial Stewardship

- November 17 will be Stewardship Sunday, including the Stewardship breakfast

Organizing

- There will be an event November 14 in conjunction with JRLC regarding the campaign for justice in payday lending to prepare for the opening of the legislative session.

Children Youth & Family

- The first parents' night out will take place this Friday; congregation members are encouraged to volunteer for childcare. This will be a monthly event meant to allow parents of young children to have some time to focus on their marriages. Youth will also be involved.
- There will be a family retreat Presidents' Day weekend, with goals of intra- and inter-family bonding.

Old Business:

Building

Feasibility study – A proposal has been received from Partners for Sacred Places (Partners) that includes a feasibility study and a “halo effect valuation”, which is a sort of economic impact study. The process would involve interviewing internal and external parties to assess feasibility of a capital campaign and improvements. The report would answer a number of questions such as: *Who will give? How much? Who will get involved? Who will lead the campaign? and Will people be motivated to give?*

It has been decades since Holy Trinity has done this type of appeal, so it would be helpful to get an outside opinion. Executive committee will seek a proposal from a second company as well. The Partners proposal is for \$16,000. The feasibility study alone would cost \$12,000. The Council discussed the proposal and the general concept of doing a feasibility study. Pastor Carlson will explore Kairos & Associates this week as a source for a second proposal. He will also try to arrange for a representative from Partners to attend the November Council meeting so that they can answer questions directly. We could probably have someone from Sacred Places here at next meeting. If Council decided to go forward with the feasibility study and/or the economic

impact study, Financial Stewardship would need to identify funds from an undesignated fund to cover the cost.

Proposed building phases:

1. First floor – Move offices to old nursery space and create conference room in old latch key room
2. Second floor (former offices); third floor choir space
3. Vestibule; community room
4. Worship space
5. Lower floor
6. Sky room

It is likely that this campaign would cover phases 1 through 3. Pastor Carlson reported that the adult forum two weeks ago covered the possible building renovation. Council discussed benefits of the building plan, including how the proposed changes would advance Holy Trinity's mission. In brief, offices downstairs would be more welcoming, the change would provide additional space on the second floor for individuals and small groups to connect, and the new layout would improve security. Property committee has revised the phases to reflect work that has already been done.

A motion was made and seconded to request that Financial Stewardship find a way to fund a feasibility study. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

Council discussed how best to bring the proposed building plan before the congregation. Comments from the recent adult forum included security concerns, caution about spending too many resources on the building versus the outward mission, and the need for strong communication. Council will need a written plan to put to the congregation that includes how building improvements fit into the mission and demonstrating a balance of inward- and outward-facing missions. No one at the forum was vocally against the improvements. A *Community Church* article may help open the conversation as may a display in the community room and having Council members available to answer questions after services.

New Business:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Drew Lindorfer, Secretary

END OF MEETING NOTES

APPENDIX

COMMITTEE REPORTS – October 2013

EDUCATION

Education met, but Jeff Olsen Biebighauser is an unreliable taker of notes. Johnson Symposium upcoming: Nov 8-9 (with Larry Rasmussen also preaching and leading forum on the 10th). Several committee members are working to establish and manage the Seminarian Tuition Fund. Not too late to sign up for Tanzania trip.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

- The Committee continued to plan for Stewardship Sunday on November 17.
- The Church has received a second and final check for \$64,809 from the estate of Trudy Ladwig.
- The Committee started discussing funding options for Exodus Lending.

HOUSING

TOL dinner attendance down. May be due to dynamics involving a resident who has been told to move, but hasn't yet. We may try to introduce some singing at end of meals.

NURTURING

- The Saturday October 12 Progressive Dinner was a success! There were about 15 people in attendance.
- There are several things we are looking forward to connecting with the new pastor about, once she has had time to "get her feet on the ground." Included are Fellowship Dinners, New Member Welcome, and follow up on mental illness/addiction.
- The first evening informal discussion is taking place Thursday October 17, and the theme will be Prayer. Meagan McLaughlin will facilitate. We hope to make this a monthly event.
- December 12, from 7:00-9:00pm, the group focusing on retirement will be hosting an evening seminar and potluck with MN Council of Churches focused on how to have end-of-life conversations. All are welcome!
- We reviewed our 2013 committee goals, and will spend our November meeting planning for 2014. Joyce Peterson will report on our 2013 goals.

ORGANIZING

Exodus Lending is continuing to move forward. Our lawyers are currently writing up our articles of incorporation so we're making strides towards incorporation. We had a series of meetings bringing together steering committee members and other leaders in the congregation. These

were facilitated by Joy Sjekstad and focused on the relationship between HT and Exodus moving forward. We shared some of the decisions that were made at last week's adult forum, and notes from this meeting are available upon request.

The campaign for justice in payday lending is growing. On November 14, HT will host a Summit for folks to come together and learn about the campaign. This will be co-sponsored by JRLC and Jewish Community Action. There will be a press conference on Nov. 11 to release JRLC's issue paper on payday lending and announce the campaign and the summit.

OUTREACH

Jay, Ingrid and Mike Mann met recently and have chosen to modify how Outreach meets. They will not be meeting on a monthly basis but instead we will gather twice a year to talk about the projects that are ongoing and explore ideas for any new efforts in the area of outreach.

PERSONNEL

Personnel met in Oct to discuss and approve health benefit options for staff, discuss selection process and job description for permanent organist, and finalize latest revisions of personnel handbook for employees. Will meet again in Nov to proceed with organist selection process.

PROPERTY

The lift to the Bartsch Room has been installed. A new door (with an alarm) leading to the roof on the fourth floor has been installed. Uneven sidewalks on church property will be corrected by mud jacking.

PWJ

No report.

YOUTH

- Lock in on October 11th was a success! Several youth brought friends. A new game was introduced – Capture the Glowstick.
- Care packages were sent for the 1st and 2nd year college students.
- Lunch and bowling w sponsors on 11/3.
- Catching Fire mini-retreat planned w Randy in November.
- Will be discussing summer service trips next month.

W/FA

- We greeted pastor Ingrid to our meeting for the first time.
- Discussed the Advent devotional book-trying to get the sign up sheet filled, meeting the

deadline, putting it together in book form, maybe having recordings of the readers available on the website...Jay and Mary Ellen Olson are heading up this project.

- Sarah talked about what she had learned in researching the idea of a sacred art collection by visiting other churches that have a program in place. The gist is that most churches build a collection by hosting exhibitions. When they do, they purchase one piece from the show. Most churches do also accept donations, but the donations are curated-in other words, to give a piece to the church does not oblige the church to display that piece. There is a curating group, and there is a person (in some case paid) in charge of putting on the exhibitions. In our case this would be a volunteer position. Sarah told the group she need to mull over whether this person could be her, and if not she will look to other potential candidates within the congregation. This person would need an art background, either as a practitioner, or art historical.