

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

February 18, 2013

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, March 18, 2013

Devotions: Kari Kleven Refreshments: Kari Kleven

Present: Council members: Jay Carlson, Sara Jensen, Kari Kleven, Bruce Johnson, Dennis Nordholm, Drew Lindorfer, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser, Joyce Peterson, Randy Nelson, Josh Becker, Laura Bolstad, , Korla Masters, Mary Engen, Anna Brelje; Church Administrator: Vicki Mann; Personnel Committee members: Sue Roberts (at 8:45), Phil Jury (at 8:45), Mike Mann (at 8:45), Deb Sodt

Absent: Bruce Martens, Pam Blomgren, Mark Holm

Call to Order: Jeff Olsen Biebighauser called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Devotions: Pastor Carlson discussed how devotions are led. He read Isaiah 43:1-7 and shared a reflection by Rev. James Germainian of Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis.

Introductions: Members introduced themselves and discussed reasons they felt called to serve.

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

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 21, 2013 Council minutes. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on January 27, 2013. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 27, 2013 Council minutes. Motion carried.

Appointment of One-Year Members: The nominees for one-year terms to the Council were identified as Laura Bolstad, Bruce Johnson, Joyce Peterson, Sara Jensen, and Bruce Martens. There was an additional one-year appointee nominated this year due to Chris Iverson's resignation from Council. A motion was made and seconded to appoint the slate of five candidates for one-year terms on Council. Motion carried.

Reports

Pastor:

- Lenten Theme

- The theme for Lent this year is “Grace Our Table,” inspired by one of the offertories
- Continuing on the theme of the offertory’s “Gather the hopes and dreams of all,” congregation members are being invited to write prayers on slips of paper found in the pews. These are being handed around to be prayed by members of the congregation. New prayers will be added as they are gathered throughout Lent.
- Minneapolis Area Synod
 - During its recent audit, the Synod discovered that a former administrator had embezzled \$100,000 over several years. The audit was being performed as part of new procedures that Bishop Svennungsen initiated at the start of her tenure. Insurance will reimburse lost funds. As a result of the Bishop’s reforms, we are confident that our benevolence funds are being handled appropriately. Legal action will be taken against the individual. Holy Trinity already has in place the type of procedures the Synod is now implementing.
- Palm Sunday (March 24)
 - Anniversary of the death of Oscar Romero. Holy Trinity may observe in conjunction with St. Paul’s (28th St E & 15th Ave S). More info to come.
- Thanks to all for council service.

Treasurer:

- Income statement review: Two accounts show credits, council and youth, due respectively to income from the annual meeting and an upcoming trip for which funds have been collected but not dispersed. A question was raised regarding envelope offerings. The deficit showing is not unusual for this time of year, as giving is somewhat seasonal. Benevolence has no expenditures year-to-date because it is only paid February through December.
- YTD Comparison review: One large annual donation and rental receipts differences put receipts up from this time last year. An explanation was given of the boiler appeal. The remaining funds that were not awarded from the special grants fund will go into the boiler fund as recommended by financial stewardship and approved by the executive committee. About \$50,000 is still needed to complete the boiler fund. A discussion followed about the critical nature of completing the boiler replacement.

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

Secretary:

- Sign-up sheet for refreshments and devotions

Vice President:

- No report this month. Will have committee reports gathering prior to future Council meetings.

President:

- Request for council members on committees: Nurturing, Outreach, and Worship currently do not have any Council members represented.

Standing Committees: Committee members updated the council on recent happenings in the following committees:

Parish Organizing:

- The alternative lending work group has been moving quickly to replicate the Pittsburgh model for alternative to payday lending. We are in the process of competing for a grant from Colonial Church. Even without that grant, the plan is to form separate 501(c)(3). The grant decision will be made in April. No funds have been transferred from Holy Trinity, but we need to consider how to keep people informed.

A discussion ensued regarding board formation, community partners, and ways in which updates will be given to the congregation.

Christian Education:

- Johnson Symposium
 - A Climate Changing Planet will be the theme. A brochure will be out this spring and various materials from the speaker will be available.
- Doug Wallace's annual Academy Award nominated films presentation will be March 17.

Property:

- Rain garden
 - Awaiting a decision from the insurance company about who is at fault for the accident. The railing should be fixed soon.
- Solar electric still in the works, but no proposal yet.

Action Items:

Peace with Justice:

- The committee's theme this year is climate change and environmental issues. Members attended a hearing at the capitol on January 22. Mark Seeley, Paul Douglas, and John Abraham were among the presenters. The committee recommends that Council and others watch a video recording of the event. The committee will also present the recording as part of their film series.

A motion was made to have Council watch the hearing. The matter was referred to the executive committee for their recommendation on the best way for Council to proceed with viewing and discussion of the hearing.

Old Business:

The conference assembly will take place March 10 and the synod assembly will take place May 31 to June 1. We need to appoint three representatives for the synod assembly, taking gender balance into consideration. Those representatives would also be asked to attend the conference assembly. We can appoint one additional youth representative. Registration is due by April 5.

Vision Task Force: (Members of Personnel committee joined meeting)

- The task force has completed its report
 - Two areas for growth have been identified: Children, Youth and Families and Nurturing Faith, Life and Relationships
 - Three conclusions and related recommendations were reached by the task force. The first two conclusions relate to the identified growth areas. The third relates to the insufficiency of current staffing to maintain current programming while committing additional resources to the growth areas.
- Personnel committee:
 - Discussed the Compass report process and staffing scenarios developed at that time. Staffing discussion was suspended until a new pastor was called. The Parish Outreach leadership position was created to address a need for growth in Outreach identified in that report.
 - Personnel has done enough previous groundwork to explore additional staffing options at this time, including the possibility of a additional clergy who would complement Pastor Carlson's skill set.
 - The committee would proceed with input from those who have a stake in the areas the recommendations focus on
 - The process of a call committee, if needed, the role of a second pastor, and the benefits of full-time versus part-time were briefly discussed.

A motion was made and seconded to task the personnel committee with making role expectation profiles for additional personnel by Council's next meeting. Discussion followed, including next steps with financial stewardship. The motion was amended to specify both lay and clergy profiles. Further discussion followed regarding a timeline. Motion carried.

New Business: None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Drew Lindorfer, Secretary