

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

November 18, 2013

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, December 16, 2013

Devotions: Mark Holm Refreshments: Pastor Carlson

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

Absent: Dennis Nordholm, Anna Brelje

Call to Order: Jeff Olsen Biebighauser called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Devotions: Josh Becker read excerpts from *The Violence of Love*, a collection of Archbishop Oscar Romero's homilies and writings, including a passage from his last sermon, "God's reign is already present on our earth in mystery. When the Lord comes, it will be brought to perfection."

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

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

Reports

Lead Pastor:

- Eventful week:
 - The Symposium with Dr. Larry Rasmussen went very well; Rick Prescott recorded the event
 - Many payday lending events, including a press conference, article in the paper, summit with JLRC, and an editorial in the Star Tribune
 - Stewardship Sunday went well overall with a good presentation
 - Pastors Carlson and Rasmussen attended the synod ministerium
 - Bishop said finances of synod are good, which is an improvement over recent years
 - Synod will be working with Kairos for listening process of congregations of the synod
 - Two weddings this month: Kevin Gillmor, who grew up at Holy Trinity, and Karen and Meagan McLaughlin
 - Parish organizing report did not get into committee reports. Highlights included:
 - Payday lending activities (listed above)
 - Exodus lending is continuing to move forward

- An open discussion to follow up on the Symposium will take place November 24.

Associate Pastor:

- Pastors Carlson and Rasmussen attended Protecting all of God's Children, which discussed protecting children against harm; Holy Trinity has never had written policy about protecting children from harm; Pastor Rasmusen will work on this in coming weeks. Among other benefits, such a policy will help facilitate beneficial nursery practices.
- Working to reinvigorate the lay communion program. Fourteen people will gather Sunday to discuss rejoining this ministry and new participants are still being sought. Communion visitors normally visit one person once a month.

Treasurer:

- YTD Comparison: Slightly under budget year to date. Special funds are above projections year to date. 2012 numbers include \$10,000 for future staffing; income is \$30,000 ahead of last year taking that into account, although budget requirements are also higher.
- Income Statement: Still running over budget on property due to fourth floor work and boiler repairs; personnel is still under budget
- Questions answered about street repairs and Symposium net income. Any deficit for the Symposium would come from one of the dedicated funds.

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

Secretary:

- Devotions reminder.
- December meeting will be at Pastor Carlson's house and will include dinner.
- Each committee is requested to host a soup supper during Advent. Vicki Mann gave details of what that would entail.

Vice President:

- No report

President:

- No report

Old Business:

Building

Council invited Partners for Sacred Places (Joy Skjedstad; Amy Schachman on phone) to answer questions about their feasibility study proposal. Ms. Skjedstad is a consultant for Partners. She works with churches and faith-based non-profits mostly on strategic planning and board development. Ms. Schachman is an Associate Director of Partners.

Ms. Skjegstad and Ms. Schachman answered questions regarding the breadth of feasibility study. The proposed study would take about two months to complete. They gave some background on Partners, including focus on community-wide fundraising and noting that Holy Trinity is very focused on the community through payday lending and affordable housing efforts. As a non-profit, Partners also wants to further their mission and that is how they approach fundraising. Partners is well-known for working with congregations in older buildings and have a good reputation nationally. Focus is on continuing to serve during a campaign and resulting changes. A feasibility study will provide a solid idea of the dollar amount people would be willing to give. Congregations that have historically done capital campaign without this type of study have typically underestimated the amount of funding available. A more one-on-one focus helps get more accurate number about the capacity and willingness of people to give. They find it equally important to talk to “naysayers”; Partners may get a better response as a neutral third party. Partners report would include an honest picture, including work that would need to happen before campaign was launched.

Capital campaign consulting is available. Of the 15 studies Partners conducted this past year, , about half were told they weren't ready. They have worked on campaigns with congregations that had feasibility studies done by others.

Feasibility study includes a 30 to 40 page documents outlining feedback they get. If a campaign looks possible, the report helps identify steering committee volunteers, what people want to give to, and how to frame the campaign.

After Council felt its questions had been answered, Ms. Skjegstad and Ms. Schachman left the meeting.

A discussion followed about funding a potential study. The Executive Committee reported on the competing proposal it received from Kairos, which in their terminology would be a “listening” phase. Their report would include a community audit that will demonstrate how the community feels about Holy Trinity. Council discussed whether there was consensus on doing a feasibility study.

A motion was made and seconded to hire an outside vendor to conduct a feasibility study. Motion carried.

A straw poll was conducted to determine if Council members were leaning toward Kairos, Partners, or were undecided. No consensus was reached. The goal would be to have study by Easter. Council was invited to send follow up questions to Pastor Carlson within the week. He will talk to references for the vendors so Council can come to a decision soon.

New Business:

Nominating committee. This year the committee members are Pam Blomgren, Mary Engen, Mark Holm, Dennis Nordholm, who are ending their council terms, as well as past council presidents. The committee should have a list by the January council meeting so the Council has a

slate to recommend for approval at the annual congregational meeting. Vicki Mann will send a list of recent council members.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Drew Lindorfer, Secretary

END OF MEETING NOTES

APPENDIX

COMMITTEE REPORTS – November, 2013

EDUCATION

Adult forums

- November 24 - "My Life Journey - My Faith Journey" - Jenni and Carson Vallaincourt on their Spanish Pilgrimage
- December 1 - "Choral Worship" Rick Prescott previews the Advent special service on December 15.
- December 8 - "The Babe of Bethlehem" - musical written by Dick Wilson
- December 15 - Advent Sing-Along

Johnson Symposium

- 148 persons attended on Friday night and 117 on Saturday morning.
- The presenter for next year will be Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber, an ELCA pastor from Denver.

In order to make members aware of the fact that the library is continually getting new books, reviews of selected books will be sent out with the Community Church three or four times a year.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

1. POSSIBLE ACTION
ITEM. After being told that the lift for the Bartsch Room will cost about \$800 more than remains in the Andersen Estate fund, due to the addition of a full door, the Committee approved that the balance come from the James Dunn Estate fund. (Not sure if this requires Council concurrence.)
2. The Committee will kick off the restart of the boiler fund drive at the Annual Congregation Meeting in January.
3. The Committee discussed the long-term building plan and proposed feasibility study.

HOUSING

Happy to report that TOL's dinner attendance was back up -11?- in Oct. the troubled resident with revoked lease had moved out. Harry provided piano with singing.

NURTURING

1. We spent our November meeting in a very productive strategic planning process, and will be finalizing goals at our December meeting.
2. The 50s and 60s group is having two events upcoming
 - Movie night, Friday November 15. The movie *12 Years a Slave* will be at the Grandview Theater. The movie starts at 7:00pm. People should meet at the theater, I suggest arriving at 6:30 to 6:45pm. The discussion will be at Davanni's, on Cleveland and Grand. We have the party room between the pizza parlor and the coffee shop. It's free if we purchase food. For anyone that just wants to meet for the discussion it will be just after 9:00pm.
 - End of Life Discussion led by MN Council of Churches, Dec 12, 6:30-8:30. Details to be announced!

ORGANIZING

OUTREACH

Did not meet

PERSONNEL

No activity.

PROPERTY

PWJ

1. Follow-up Discussion on Symposium/Climate Change Actions: Sunday Nov. 24 at 12:15 we will have a light sandwich lunch and invite those who attended the Symposium, heard Dr. Rasmussen during Sunday services, or are interested in thinking about what we at Holy Trinity can do to reduce environmental impact and/or adapt to Climate Change to come and share your thoughts and ideas.
2. Recommendations were made on contributions to social/justice organizations both local and global from our Peace with Justice funds.

YOUTH

- Youth will be helping cook and serve meals at Trinity Apartments in December and two other times this year, with the help of adult volunteers.
- Most of our meeting was focused on planning for a summer service learning trip for the confirmation and high school youth. We are considering various options and will be talking with parents and trying to pick a program and dates by early January.
- Pastor Jay suggested that HT might offer a camp experience for 4-6th graders and us youth folk are very supportive of this idea! We believe it could help create a summer church camp culture at HT that many of us have been hoping for years would develop!

W/FA

- Update on Advent devotional: about half have been received. Theme is "Visions of Hope and Peace." We need art work for the cover. Some names of congregants who might be asked to design a cover were presented. Jay would like to put pictures of each writer to include with their written devotional. Martha offered to help with taking pictures.
- Mosaic project update: We will be working with an artist in town who has designed many mosaic projects and is currently working with Patrick Cabello Hansel's church, where they are offering free mosaic classes on Wednesday nights. Plan is for HT people to take some of these classes then return to HT and "teach" others who want to help with the project. Barbara is researching places to apply for grant money.
- Sanctuary renovation: Dennis reported that he brought it up at an Adult Forum in September and it was well received.