

## Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

March 17, 2014

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, April 21, 2014**

**Devotions: Laura Bolstad**

**Refreshments: Drew Lindorfer**

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**Present:** Council members: Jay Carlson, Ingrid Rasmussen, Sara Jensen, Drew Lindorfer, Randy Nelson, Kari Kleven, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser, Anna Brelje, Josh Becker, Lisa Martens, Laura Bolstad, Sean Gosiewski, Eleni Wolking, Zoe Martinez, Korla Masters

**Absent:** Bruce Johnson, Gerry Berglin

**Call to Order:** Jay Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Devotions:** Kari Klevin read and reflected on “Starlings in Winter,” a Mary Oliver Poem.

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

#### **Minutes:**

After deleting a repeated phrase in the meeting minutes, a motion was made and seconded to approve the February 17, 2014 Council minutes. Motion carried.

#### **Reports**

##### *Lead Pastor:*

- Lenten Season: The Ash Wednesday service in the Bartsch room went well. Holy week services will be in the Bartsch Room, except for Easter Sunday. Staff are working on dimming the lights more in the Bartsch room for future services.
- New member Sunday: The new format during the adult forum worked well to get to know the new members.
- Baptism: Erin & Howie Patchen
- JRLC Day on the Hill: Payday lending will be an issue area focus for this event.
- Kairos: The building improvements the church is considering build from the 2009 Task Force recommendations. The projects address security concerns, increasing hospitality, accessibility, and some of the projects have already been completed (e.g. Bartsch Room lift, Nursery relocation, 4<sup>th</sup> floor clean-up). Kairos is conducting a feasibility study and is helping us collect feedback from the congregation about the current state of HTLC and where it is headed in order to help us develop a coordinated long term plan.
  - Kairos is currently in the listening phase of the study. Congregation will be invited to fill out a survey, and Kairos will conduct interviews with a cross-section of congregational leaders. Anyone who would like to be interviewed is welcome. A letter will be going out in advance of the survey, the survey was announced in the Community Church, and it was included in the President’s report at the annual meeting.
- Seminary tuition fund: HTLC has made grants of \$1k available each year to seminary students, thanks to an estate gift from the Ostrom family. Meagan McLaughlin the grant recipient this spring.

- Children, Youth and Family Committee: Perhaps HTLC should consider changing the bylaws for this committee. It is really a youth committee.

*Associate Pastor:*

- Intercultural Development (IDI) Survey: Some congregants participated in the IDI Survey, and the results showed that HTLC appears to fall in the “minimization” category, which is in the middle between denial and adaptability. That means we tend to downplay difference and emphasize that we are all one in God’s world rather than talking about the differences we bring. After hearing the results some of the survey participants reflected that we know who we want to become but we do not know how to get there. The group will continue to meet to discuss ideas for how the congregation can develop further in this area.
- Palm Sunday Procession April 13: HTLC members will join with other area churches in a procession on Palm Sunday, starting from Christ Lutheran Church and stopping at 5 places reflecting hope and brokenness in our community.

*Treasurer: Presented by Vicki Mann in Gerry Berglin’s absence.*

- In February envelope offerings were below budget but in January they were good. To date expenses are significantly less than income, which is typical for the early part of the year.
- Average weekly attendance has been up from last year, which is especially good given the weather.
- Special funds are down. Last year the special fund appeal in March was for the Minnehaha Food Shelf. This year it will be for Exodus Lending.
- Investment earnings are under budget.

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

*Secretary:*

- No report

*Vice President:*

- Council members should make sure to take the time to read the committee reports in advance of the Council meeting

*President:*

- No report

**Unfinished Business:**

*Church Council Openings*

Two council seats remain open. We received one no and one person has not responded to being asked to serve on the Council. Sarah Jensen will contact Paul Christians, and Eleni Wolking will contact Kwame Owusu-Acheampong to ask them if they would be interested in serving on the Council.

*Synod Assembly Delegates*

A motion was made to approve Teresa Ryan, Sean Gosiewski, Eleni Wolking, and Meagan Fortier as HTLC delegates to the Synod Assembly, with Meghan Olsen-Biebighauser to attend as a visitor. The motion carried.

*Personnel Committee*

In response to the Council's request, the Personnel Committee put forth a proposed 4 point policy clarifying the role of the Personnel Committee and the Council. The Council agreed with points 1, 3, and 4, but requested clarification for what would constitute a "significant structural change." Council would like to make sure that the policy includes council review what significant job description changes occur that would impact the mission. Council also was concerned that the wording of the proposed policy requires Council review but not approval.

Jeff Olsen Biebighauser will follow-up with the Personnel Committee and ask them to revise point #2 on the proposed policy based on the feedback from Council. Jeff will serve as a resource if the Committee needs additional information about the Council's concerns with the current wording of the proposed policy.

#### **New Business:**

##### *Abuse Policy*

Council members should read the draft Abuse Policy and identify questions, concerns, and comments to share at the April Council meeting. Council members are welcome to send Ingrid comments in advance of the meeting. Ingrid attended a Safeguarding God's Children event in which the St. Paul and Minneapolis synods encouraged congregations to have an Abuse Policy. The draft policy was adapted from the policy of Our Saviors in Circle Pines. Council members should bring a printed copy of the draft policy to the April meeting.

##### **Committee Chairs Meeting**

The semi-annual Committee Chairs meeting will be held on March 31. In addition to encouraging cross-committee information sharing and collaboration, this year's meeting is a good opportunity to make sure that all committee chairs are up to speed on the process HTLC is going through with Kairos.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Bolstad, Secretary

END OF MEETING NOTES