

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

August 18, 2014

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, September 22, 2014

Devotions: Sara Jensen

Refreshments: Zoe Martinez

Present: Council members: Jay Carlson, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser, Sara Jensen, Drew Lindorfer, Gerry Berglin, Randy Nelson, Anna Brelje, Lisa Martens, Laura Bolstad, Eleni Wolking, Cathy Ohler, Zoe Martinez

Absent: Ingrid Rasmussen, Josh Becker, Kari Kleven, Sean Gosiewski, Alyssa Erickson

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

Devotions: Zoe reflected on the power and value of shared prayer.

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

Minutes:

After correcting the spelling of a few names, a motion was made and seconded to approve the June 16, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

Reports

Lead Pastor

- New organist/choir director, David Sims, has been hired for the combined Cantor position. There were many good candidates. Graduated from St. Olaf, worked closely with Anton Armstrong, and majored in church music. Masters in organ performance at Indiana University, one of the best music conservatories in the country, and then worked part time for a local church in Indiana and also has been working for an organ maintenance company. The choir met three candidates, and they had a lot of positive feedback about him. He will start on September 8th, the day after Rally Day. Sunday, August 24th will be Tim's last Sunday.
- We've had many recent baptisms, weddings, and births to celebrate.
- Sunday School Changes: A new Children and Family committee may be introduced. A letter is in the mail tomorrow outlining all of the things that will happen on Rally Day. 9:45 invite all to the sanctuary (kids and adults), then we'll break out into Adult forum, Sunday School, etc. Godly Play starts at age 4. Will be starting "Grace Time" for 3 year olds. Soon there will be a training for Sunday School teachers. Sunday School will be renamed "Trinity Village," and it will be more of an active, rotational model. Another abuse prevention training needs to be scheduled.
- Janitor search. David Wiljama is here for the summer, but we still do not have anyone for the fall. The position is for 12 hrs/wk; 3 hrs/wk Monday through Thursday.

Associate Pastor

- Successful Boundary Waters Trip
- Welcome to David Sims; Thank you to Tim for his service.
- Stewardship Breakfast (11/16/2014): Will be creating a video highlighting volunteer opportunities. All committees to discuss opportunities they would like include. Email Paul Rasmussen with the volunteer opportunities. Paul will be producing the video.

Treasurer

- Thank you to Vicki for her hard work on the transition to the new financial software.
- YTD expenses are significantly under budget and income under budget, so we are doing fine. Overall the church is on track financially.
- 32 week report shows average attendance is 3 above a year's attendance. Income is \$39k-\$40k above income from last year.
- Boiler update: Unless we do all new thermostats we would still need to use the current pneumatic system. The cost of full replacement would be roughly \$50k. As a result, we will not be proceeding with the thermostats, so we should be ok without any additional money for the boiler fund. Currently we are expecting to come in under budget, but that will depend on what happens with the contingencies. The work is expected to be completed very soon.
- What does a negative number mean on the current liabilities section of the Statement of Financial Position? It means we have paid out more than we have taken in for a few items. Positive numbers mean money we have taken in and not yet paid out.

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

Secretary:

- Due to the Bishop's Theological conference conflicting with Jay and Ingrid's availability, the Council agreed to move the next meeting to September 22nd.
- Funeral for Ron Peterson at 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 21, with lunch immediately afterwards.
- September: Zoe to bring snacks, Sara to do devotions

Vice President:

- No report

President:

- No report

Committee Reports:

- No action items
- Peace with Justice is teaming up with Creation Care Team to organize an event to discuss our relationship to creation and our concerns about climate change. This conversation may inform a congregational project regarding climate change.
- End of summer celebration will be on 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 12th this year. It will be an ice cream social, and there will be music. Let Ingrid know if you are interested in performing.
- Johnson Symposium info distributed
- Meeting with Broadway school on Aug. 26th at 7 pm
- Reminder about Fair for All schedule
- Third installment of "Race the power of an illusion" will be on Tuesday, September 30th at 7 pm.

Unfinished Business:

Proposed bylaw changes

In September the task force evaluating the governing documents is planning to propose language changes to the bylaws in the following areas:

1. Establish Children and Family Ministry Committee
2. Change Christian Education committee name to Adult Education
3. Incorporate Parish Organizing Team into the bylaws
4. Personnel – should be revised to reflect current practice, and clarification relating to the procedure for handling urgent issues and sensitive personnel information.
5. Executive Committee – should be revised to reflect current practice, and to refine duties.

Council membership

Bylaws are vague on the number of required members. Are we required to fill all openings?

Currently 4 people in 3 year terms nominated each year, resulting in a total of 12 three year positions. In addition we have usually had 4 one year term positions, but we have had some difficulty filling the one year term positions. We would recommend making an effort to fill all positions, but clarify in the bylaws that the Council shall have a minimum of 12 Council Members and a maximum of 16 people. Sixteen is a big council compared to other churches. HTLC had increased the Council size to create diversity. Now that the nominating committee is careful about diversity for all nominations, the need for a larger council is not as great. Our size can be unwieldy. We could do a better job of sharing the benefits of serving on Council. A suggestion was made to create a Council mentorship program.

Building Campaign

Proposed evening Building Plan Forum: Thursday, September 18 from 7-8:30 pm. At the forum we could review the history in some detail, highlight motives (Safety and hospitality), relate to what we heard the congregation cares about in the Kairos report (e.g. people want community).

Discuss the potential projects (and how they relate to safety and hospitality, themes in the Kairos report), and ask for feedback/idea (sticky note voting, and more open-ended ideas of what would improve “hospitality”). We should specifically ask what problems or issues they see with this proposed plan. Do not discuss previously identified stages, as they are no longer relevant.

Discussed what projects the Council Members would like to prioritize: Office relocation, comfortable meeting spaces (small and mid-size), Community room/narthex improvements (remove walls, cry room), make 31st street entrance more welcoming, make cul-de-sac entrance more prominent, improve outdoor signage (parking, access to offices, etc.), Second floor bathroom improvements (accessibility). Second priority: Gym (lighting, acoustic panels), Dining/Kitchen

Executive Council will draft a timeline that would get us to a vote at the annual meeting.

Rough timeline:

- 1) Consult with architect again after gaining congregational input
- 2) Bring back a draft plan (with budget, phasing, drawings) to be reviewed at another congregational meeting.
- 3) Make final revisions based on congregational feedback, and bring a revised plan for vote at the annual meeting.

September 14th Sunday forum on Kairos report will focus on the health of the congregation and then segue to the congregation’s current impressions of a potential building campaign.

New Business:None

Other: None

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:58 pm. Motion carried.

Next meeting: September 22, 2014