

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

November 17, 2014

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, December 15, 2014

Devotions: Randy

Refreshments: Christmas Party

Present: Council members: Ingrid Rasmussen, Kari Kleven, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser, Drew Lindorfer, Gerry Berglin, Anna Brelje, Laura Bolstad, Randy Nelson, Josh Becker, Alyssa Erickson

Absent: Jay Carlson, Sean Gosiewski, Sara Jensen, Lisa Martens, Eleni Wolking, Zoe Martinez, Kathy Ohler

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

Devotions: Gerry offered a reflection on All Saints Day.

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

Minutes:

After correcting a few clerical errors, a motion was made and seconded to approve the October 20, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

Reports

Lead Pastor

- Held the annual meeting at Holy Trinity Apartments. There is a waiting list of one year.
- Worship and Fine Arts held a conversation about worship in Advent. The meeting was not well attended.
- Jay and Meghan are in D.C. at a conference on faith and payday lending reform.
- Jay and Kristen are offering to host the December Council meeting at their house.
- Stewardship Sunday went well.

Associate Pastor

- The Johnson Symposium was very successful. On Friday 420-430 people attended, and on Saturday 310-320 people attended. The symposium has generated a significant amount of lasting conversation.
- The 20s, 30s, and 40s group had a good meeting. They are looking for a new name for the group. Ingrid and Laura have outlined possible activities for the group for the next year.
- At the Stewardship Breakfast people volunteered for 50 opportunities on an engagement sheet that was handed out.

Treasurer

- The church is doing fine financially.
- Unless there are more unexpected expenses, the boiler project will be on budget.

- We may spend more than \$240,000 for the boiler project, which means we likely will have not raised enough money. There were unexpected asbestos abatement, leak issues, etc. To pay for those additional expenses we could draw from capital improvement funds.
- Received offerings are lower than pledged offerings, but we usually make up ground in November and December.. The “pledged” line item includes more than the actual amount pledged. The \$40,000 in budgeted Pafko funds have not been used yet for staffing. We will wait until the end of the year to transfer the funds in order to transfer only what is needed.
- The Council should officially thank the Kellys and everyone who donated to the boiler fund. The Executive Committee is tasked with developing a thank you to the Kelly family.

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

Secretary:

- The December meeting will be a meal at Jay and Kirsten’s house, and Randy will do devotions. The Council decided on a 6:30 p.m. start time.

Vice President:

- Committees must submit their budgets and goals by December 8th. Send them to Vicki, along with a list of 2015 committee members, 2014 committee members, and 2015 committee chairs.

President:

- The Conference Assembly will be held on Feb. 7, and the Synod Assembly will be May 15-16. HTLC needs 3 adult lay voting members to attend, and we may also send a youth delegate. Eliza Roberts has been suggested as our youth delegate.
- Each council member is responsible to bring two salads to the annual meeting: Sunday, January 25, 2015

Committee Reports:

- Children and Family Ministry raised the question: Would hosting conversations about relationships in the Children and Family Ministry feel exclusive? Would it be more welcoming to host such conversations in the Nurturing Committee? The Council recommended that joint committee sponsorship of such events/programs could be a good solution. That would take advantage of the energy that the Children and Family Ministry members have, and it would broaden the appeal to have the Nurturing Committee support it as well.

Unfinished Business:

Building Campaign

Randy reported that the task force met four times in the last two weeks. They identified that highest priority from the survey and congregational meetings is relocating the offices. The group is looking at architects. On Wednesday they will meet again and hope to narrow the list down to 10-12 firms for a walk through to be scheduled relatively soon. They will then get proposals from the serious candidates and plan to interview five. The response from architects has been very good, and some who are less suited for this project have referred other firms. There will be a progress report for the annual meeting. We may need to provide some earnest money for blueprints, which could come from the facilities contingency fund or the Ladwig Estate. The Council appreciates the bulletin board display about the potential building renovations.

Proposed bylaw changes

The Council reviewed draft changes to the bylaws in advance of the meeting.

Discussion:

Additional recommended changes:

- Personnel Committee
The wording needs to be improved to clarify who makes the decision about what needs to be “confidential.” The Personnel Committee would determine to the best of their ability which topics need to be confidential. In gray areas the Personnel Committee would consult with the Executive Committee about whether an issue needs to be confidential. (Article 8.7)
- Financial Stewardship:
 - (8a) Wording is awkward and meaning is not clear. Gerry will talk to Gary to find out the intent of 8a.
 - (8e) Revised wording suggested: “The committee shall strive to invest funds in a way that is consistent with the values of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.”

The pending bylaw changes from Personnel Committee and Financial Stewardship Committee need to be reviewed in the December Council meeting in order for the proposed bylaws to be sent to members in time.

A motion was made to bring the proposed Committee on Children and Family Ministry bylaw changes forward for a congregational vote at the Annual meeting. Motion carried.

New Business:

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will draft a list of potential candidates to replace out-going Council Members Anna Brelje, Drew Lindorfer, and Randy Nelson. In addition to the outgoing Council members. Jody Liedholm and Peter Johnson will serve on the Nominating Committee, and as of yet we have not heard from Mark Hiner yet. Drew hopes they will be meeting the second week in December.

The Council discussed whether the Committee should be looking for a fifth person, who would replace Korla’s position on Council.

Motion: Move to encourage the Nominating Committee to nominate people for the four three year terms position and the one two year term. Motion carried.

Other:

Special Appeals

HTLC receives many requests for financial contributions but has no inclusive process for deciding on which special appeals are selected. Ingrid distributed a history of HTLC special appeals (2008-2014).

Jay and Ingrid suggested a potential structure. The Council discussed that people can still keep giving to other causes through HTLC, but we don’t actively ask for the donations (special envelopes, request letters, etc.). When we settle on a process we should make sure to inform the congregation about the new process.

A motion was made for the Financial Stewardship Committee to solicit appeal requests from the congregation and then bring the list to Council no later than September 1. The Council would discuss the various appeal requests, and the Executive Committee would select the special appeals with the general guideline of funding one world appeal, one local appeal, and one internal appeal. Motion did not carry. Executive Council will bring a motion next month.

Communications Audit:
Conversation tabled.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:37 pm. Motion carried.

Next meeting: December 15, 2014