

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

February 16, 2015

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, March 16, 2015

Devotions: Linda Refreshments: Melanie

Present: Council members: Jay Carlson, Ingrid Rasmussen, Sara Jensen, Laura Bolstad, Kari Kleven, Melanie Townsend, Theresa Rian, Linda McMahon, Sean Gosiewski, Cliff Brown, Gerry Werth, Danya Wirth (visiting), Josh Becker, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser

Absent: Gerry Berglin

Call to Order: Sara Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:10.

All members received a copy of the Handbook for Members of Church Council.
Introductions and sharing.

Devotions: Jeff read from Gilead by Marilyn Robinson, in honor of the new paint on the library wall.

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

Minutes: After correcting a clerical error, a motion was made and seconded to approve the January 19, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

Reports:

Lead Pastor

- Jay handed out a draft list of spring/summer ministry activities for all ages that he and Ingrid and others are compiling.
- Ash Wednesday is this week 2/19. Soup at 6:00. Service at 7:00. Council members were asked to help out at the service and several volunteered.
- Wedding this Saturday. Baptism scheduled for Easter Morning.

Associate Pastor

- 18 new members will be joining on March 1st. The forum that day will be devoted to two HT members speaking about their experience at HT (John B. and Eleni W.) and we will meet the new members. In addition, new members will be invited to a "Kinship Meal" at someone's home later in March and there is a new process to intentionally assess interests and gifts through an inventory and match them with ministry opportunities.
- Pastors are required to declare their housing allowance = what percentage of their income goes to housing. Ingrid is declaring \$33,000. Jay is declaring \$35,000. Motion made and seconded to approve the housing declarations. Motion carried.

Treasurer

- Overall we are doing well one month into the new year. Contributions look higher than expected because one family gave their total annual pledge in January.
- Average weekly attendance has been 214, compared to 191 last year.

- The sound system will be updated soon.

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

Vice President:

- AED (automatic external defibrillator) has been installed near the women's restroom. An email went out to HT members who have medical experience with this information. The executive committee has recommended that staff receive training on how to operate the AED.

Secretary:

- Melanie has snacks for March. Linda agreed to do devotions.

President:

- No report.

Committee and task force Reports:

The Council discussed various news from the Committees, including:

- *Children and Family committee* hosted a retreat last weekend and it was a big success. (Theresa Rian reporting). There was at least one child in every year of life from 1 – 12! They are looking at options for a weekend summer family retreat. They are considering moving away from the traditional week of VCS for many ages, as it has been more difficult to find volunteers and attendance has been down in recent years. Considering still offering the week long morning camp for grades K-2 then other opportunities for older children throughout the summer, including a musical and a handbell camp.
- *Nurturing Committee* organized a book study that met for the first time for the 20s, 30s & 40s (but open to all.) The book is *The Quest for the Living God*. 3 more tuesdays.
- *Peace with Justice Committee* has authorized a group to investigate a partner parish opportunity in El Salvador. They had good participation at the Longfellow Energy Fair here at HT, and the MoveMN Transportation Day at the Capitol. They are recruiting for JRLC Day on the Hill. Looking forward to the Wind Source Campaign after Easter. Investigating Community Solar Garden options for HT.

Unfinished Business:

a. Special Appeals

After last month's council meeting the executive committee was tasked by the council with deciding whether to recommend an international special appeal. They decided NOT to add an additional special appeal this year due to the possibility that HT will be doing a capitol campaign for the building.

b. Bylaws

We approved the bylaws at the last council meeting but they were not brought to the annual meeting because we were not able to meet the 30 day notice requirement for sending the congregation the proposed changes. Discussed how to proceed at this point, given that we need to have a congregational meeting on the building issue as well. Decided on a plan to mail the proposed bylaw changes with a letter to the congregation this week and announce a congregational meeting on 3/22/15 after the 11:00 service.

c. One year terms

No one who has been asked has agreed to serve a one-year term on the council.

We planned for who to ask next based on our brainstorming during the January meeting of this new council.

1st round:

Alison - Laura will ask

Lynda Nordhom – Linda McMahon will ask

Dave - Sara will ask

2nd round:

Libby – Theresa R will ask

Eleni – Sean G will ask

Lisa M – Josh will ask

Josh Combs - Jeff O-B will ask

Bob Norheim

Jeff Weiss

NEW BUSINESS

a. Congregational Meeting

The Building Task force has continued to meet to consider architectural firms and have narrowed down to four firms. There is an update on the process in the upcoming Community Church. The Task Force will be meeting with the four firms on 2/28. They plan to check references and shortly afterwards make a recommendation to council at the March meeting. We discussed how to proceed. Decided that if the council approves the recommendation then a letter would go out from the council to the congregation with information about the process and recommendation, and invitations to an adult forum on 3/29/15 and a congregational meeting on 4/12/15 following the late service. Council members were encouraged to attend the forum and the congregational meeting.

b. Synod Assembly.

The number of delegates from each congregation depends on active baptized membership. HT can send three adults along with the two pastors – one man, one woman and an additional delegate, as well as a youth delegate. It takes place on May 15-16 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey. We need to register by March 20th.

Interested: Eliza Roberts in the youth delegate. Melanie Townsend, Linda McMahon and Sean G. volunteered. Theresa Rian and Sara Jensen are backups if one of them cannot attend.

A motion was made to approve this slate of delegates. Motion approved.

c. Pizza Oven Project

Danya Werth presented a proposal for building a pizza oven in the HT garden as part of his process of becoming an Eagle Scout. He has brought this idea to the council before and it was part of the Outreach Committee Goals for 2013. He has been doing research with David Berg.

- They visited a pizza oven at a church in North Minneapolis. Discussed security: could have a metal door with a lock.
- There is a fireplace store in the Seward neighborhood that can be a resource.
- They met with the Grounds Committee: Build a small shed for wood. Or the oven itself may include a storage space.

Options:

1. Order off the internet: Danya and David Berg have found a design that they feel is good and affordable. Different sizes determine how many pizzas can be made at one time. It can also be used for baking bread. Price ranges from \$2410 - \$2686.
2. Build it himself with help from other Eagle Scouts and others: \$1900 – \$2000. Could be customized.

Council members asked Danya to do some more research in the following areas:

- consider whether we might want a bigger oven to serve larger groups of people; ask other churches for their ideas about an ideal size
- ask if other churches have policies for use by outside groups
- do we need a special rider on our insurance?

The pastors noted that the money could come from the “40%” fund. Another option could be applying for a grant; Kairos identified that HT could apply for the “Under 30” grant for folks looking to build community in their neighborhood.

d. *Other new business.*

Linda McMahon brought up that she would like to personally do an appeal to raise \$500 for a project in Tanzania. Discussion about how this process would work. Seemed to be general agreement that if checks are to be made out to HT then she should go through the Financial Stewardship Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Motion carried.

Next meeting: March 16, 2015