

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

January 19, 2015

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, February 16, 2015

Devotions: Jeff Refreshments: Lisa

Present: Council members: Ingrid Rasmussen, Kari Kleven, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser, Drew Lindorfer, Gerry Berglin, Anna Brelje, Laura Bolstad, Randy Nelson, Alyssa Erickson Jay Carlson Sara Jensen, Lisa Martens, Eleni Wolking, Zoe Martinez, Sean Gosiewski, Kathy Ohler

Absent: Josh Becker

Call to Order: Jeff Biebighauser called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Devotions: Jeff shared a favorite prayer, which is from the LBW and Holden Village.

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 December 15, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

Lead Pastor

- The confirmation weekend retreat went well, with 8 youth attending.
- Jay will be on vacation February 1-8. Ingrid will be on vacation 1/26-2/7, but both will be here for Lent.
- Worship staff is starting to plan for Lent and Holy Week.

Associate Pastor

- Attended the First Call theological educational event at Mount Olivet Retreat Center for pastors who are currently serving in their first call.
- Attended a Race and Mass incarceration event with several other HTLC members.
- The intercultural development group rescheduled their meeting with Carrie Carol for Thursday (1/22) evening from 7-9 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Ingrid and several people from Holy Trinity marched today with the Black Lives Matter Group. Approximately 2,000 people attended the march.
- Nicki Hines and Ingrid have organized a book study of Elizabeth Johnson's *Quest for the Living God* on Feb 10, 17, 24. The book is about the different imagery used to discuss and describe God.
- New Member Sunday will be held on March 1. The Adult forum that day will be a special welcome for them.

Treasurer

- Strong December contributions helped bring Holy Trinity's budget to a \$231 positive balance for the year—right on target.
- As a result, Holy Trinity did not need to use the Pafko money to cover any budget gap.

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

Secretary:

- Distributed snack and devotions sign up list.
- Executive Committee
 - Executive Committee approved Financial Stewardship's recommendation to fund a team of 4-5 members to attend the Midwest Academy Training in Chicago.

Vice President:

- No report

President:

- Each council member is responsible to bring two salads to the annual meeting: Sunday, January 25, 2015
- We will need to recommend candidates and decide on the next year's Executive Committee members.
- The current council terms end in January.
- The bylaws will not be presented for a congregational vote at the annual meeting because the changes to the Financial Stewardship bylaws were not drafted in time to send copies to the congregation 30 days in advance of the meeting.

Committee Reports:

The Council discussed various news from the Committees, including:

- Peace with Justice's efforts on climate change and solar energy.
- Outreach Committee's ongoing partnership with the Broadway School. The Broadway school knitting class taught by HTLC members will start in this Thursday, and the class is at full capacity (17 students). The school currently needs clothes for children ages 18 months to four years old. Some HTLC members will be attending a breakfast on 1/26 at the school to celebrate completion of half the year. The Dean of Students communicated that they really appreciate their partnership with Holy Trinity. The timing of the Fare for All has now been adjusted to make it easier for Broadway students to attend. HTLC successfully delivered 242 items of clothing from our clothing drive for the school.
- Youth and Family Ministry are hosting a winter family retreat February 13th –February 15th at Chi Rho retreat center. You do not have to be a family with young children to attend.
- Christian Education is hosting a bake sale and pancake breakfast fundraiser on February 1st.

Unfinished Business:

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has nominated Gerry Werth, Cliff Brown, Melanie Townsend, and Theresa Rian for the available 3 year Council positions, and Linda McMahon for a 1 year Council position.

Building Campaign

Holy Trinity has received 5 proposals already and extended the deadline. The task force anticipates they will likely receive the 6th proposal on Wednesday. The next step will be to decide how many firms to interview. The task force will likely interview the firms within the next month, with the goal of having a recommendation to the council by the March or April meeting.

Proposed bylaw changes

Bylaw changes will not be brought to the annual meeting, given that we were not able to meet the 30 day notice requirement for sending the congregation the proposed bylaw changes. This delay allowed the Financial Stewardship Committee to draft proposed changes to their bylaws.

The Council considered and discussed the draft bylaw changes.

A motion was made to recommend the draft bylaw changes be brought for a vote at the next congregational meeting. Motion carried.

Special Appeals

The Executive Committee recommends the Council approve special appeals for 1) World Hunger, 2) one local organization, and 3) one international organization.

Local Options Discussed:

- Broadway School “Baby and Bikes” Project
- Exodus Lending
- Tubman Center
- Various energy partners that Peace with Justice supports

A motion was made to select the Broadway School “Babies and Bikes” Project as the local special appeal (which includes the bike shed and other related needs once clarified), and consider designating another appeal at a later date if we meet the funding goals for the Babies and Bikes Project.

Friendly amendment: Designate Broadway School as the local special appeal for the whole year of 2015, with Babies and Bikes as the first project to be funded. Motion carries.

International Options Discussed:

- Cheetah Development
- GLK Student Fund
- Oxfam
- Books for Africa

The discussion on the options for an international special appeal was tabled because the Council determined it did not have sufficient information to evaluate the merits of each proposal, or the viability and reliability of the newer organizations being considered.

A motion was made to designate World Hunger as a 2015 special appeal. Motion carries.

The Council asked the Executive Committee to recommend an international appeal, to be brought to the next congregational meetings. Financial Stewardship will propose a process for evaluating special appeals in the future.

Budget

- The 2014 numbers are not the final numbers – they are about \$300 off.
- The budget proposes less than \$400k in pledged offerings, but HTLC has always received more than is pledged. The budget assumes an increase of \$12,000 in giving by people who renewed their pledge. The budget assumes the same level of donations by people who are still active in the church but did not turn in a pledge.
- Last year approx 150 households pledged. This year so far approximately 100 households have pledged.
- Vicki feels the pledged offerings estimate is pretty solid, not a big stretch.
- In 2014 HTLC had a 15 person net increase in membership.
- The one budget item that is increasing significantly in 2015 is personnel. The rest of the budget items are at the same or slightly higher than 2014.
- The Christian Education budgeted amount would be reallocated if the committee structure changes as proposed.

Motion to recommend bringing the budget for vote at the annual meeting. Motion carried.

New Business:

Ingrid presented the Outreach Committee's proposal to that the Latino Ministry Fund be redesignated under the wider category of an Intercultural Development Fund. The funds had been originally raised years ago, and after it was determined that it would not be feasible to start a Latino Ministry/Congregation at HTLC most of the funds were given to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Approximately \$10,000 remain in the fund. Under the new designation, these unused funds would pay for Holy Trinity programs that increase our own intercultural competency and address racial injustices in our society (e.g. IDI coaching).

Outreach Committee's exploration of this potential repurposing of funds included HTLC members who were active at the time the fund was originally created. The Outreach Committee was involved with the founding of the Latino Ministry Fund. Stella Townsend's mother had donated a significant amount of money to the fund.

Motion to approve repurposing the Latino Ministry Fund as an "Intercultural Fund" designated for Holy Trinity programs that increase our own intercultural competency and address racial injustices in our society. Motion carried.

Other:

The Council thanked the outgoing Council Members for their service. The outgoing members are Drew Lindorfer, Alyssa Erickson, Anna Brelje, Randy Nelson, Lisa Martens, and Kathy Ohler.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:56 pm. Motion carried.

Next meeting: February 16, 2014