

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

April 20, 2015

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, May 19, 2015

Devotions: Sean Refreshments: Sean

Present: Council members: Jay Carlson, Ingrid Rasmussen, Sara Jensen, Josh Becker, Laura Bolstad, Kari Kleven, Cliff Brown, Melanie Townsend, Theresa Rian, Linda McMahon, Sean Gosiewski, Gerry Werth, Jeff Olsen Biebighauser, David Krig, Gerry Berglin. Visitor: Vicki Mann

Absent: none

Call to Order: Sara Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Devotions: Kari reflected on a quote by Harriet Lerner related to “increasing the possibilities of truth ... and life between us.”

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

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the March, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

Reports:

Lead Pastor

- Stephanie Sulzbach is stepping down from her position as church school coordinator. She has held the position for 9 years. She has offered to be available for helping with the transition. We will honor her at church on Sunday, June 14.
- We will have a new piano in the Bartsch room delivered this week. It was a good deal found on Facebook. Bill and Sue Roberts offered to pay for it.
- Bishop Svennungsen is on a personal leave for up to 60 days to be with their son who is in hospice care.
- Jay commented on the positive energy on HT Facebook and read a post Ingrid posted: “I see all of you ... loving the children at Holy Trinity. Thank you.”
- Pastors are reorganizing how they divide their committee responsibilities.
 - Jay will be involved with: Financial Stewardship, Peace w Justice (w Meghan), Children and Family, Youth, Property (with Vicki), Trinity Housing Social Services, Personnel.
 - Ingrid will be involved with: Adult Education (this is a change for her, and they will start meeting the first Monday of the month), Nurturing, Outreach, Worship and Fine Arts (with David)

Associate Pastor

- Thanks to all who were involved in the play!
- Reflected on Holy Week being a “congregational exercise in agility” that was made possible and meaningful by so many people.
- Holy Trinity was presented with an award as the “partner of the year” at a Broadway High School award ceremony. They said “We could not have done what we did with the students this year without the help of the church community.” We have gotten about \$1200 in the special appeal. Ingrid will be meeting with a Thrivent Representative (who is a member here) and the community relations person at The Hub (local bike coop) about partnering together for the bike shed.

- On May 17th the 11:00 service will be a joint worship with the Swahili congregation. The Swahili congregation will be cooking a lunch afterwards that HT members are invited to attend. HT members are asked to sign up for the lunch.

Treasurer

- We are \$233 in the black, significantly ahead of where we were last year.
- Average weekly attendance is 234, compared to 213 last year. There was speculation by a first service attender that the first service is at least partly responsible for this growth! ☺

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

Vice President:

Exodus Lending is open for business! Jay and Vicki are working on an official contract for Holy Trinity as the fiscal agent. Exodus Lending is re-financing pay day loans, along with offering financial counseling and incentivized savings program.

Secretary:

- Sean has snacks and devotions for May.

President: Now that this is a complete Council, we would like to do a Council Retreat. Proposal for Sunday, May 3rd, 12-4. NO – Josh, Melanie. MAYBE – Theresa.

The Executive Committee is forming the design and funding teams.

- Update on the formation of the Design Team: Deb Sodt (chair), Dawn Wiczorek, and Randy Newberg (architects), Dennis Nordholm (chair of property) Randy Nelson (continuity from the earlier team), Sara Jensen (council), Rob Englund, Christine Brand.
- Update on the formation of the finance team: So far we have Gary Johnson (representing Financial Stewardship), Josh Becker (representing Council), Mike Mann, Allison Johnson and Scott Cole.

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Committee and Task Force Reports:

Personnel

- In addition to the past three Council Presidents, there have been three “appointed” members who have experience related to HR: Phil Jury, Bob Hulteen and Deb Sodt. These members have not had terms of service, but starting in 2016 they will have three year rotating terms with the opportunity to renew for another term. This will start with one of the members in 2016. The personnel committee will be responsible for finding new members for the committee but will submit names for Council approval.
- Starting after the annual meeting in January, family members of staff will not serve on the personnel committee. This means that Jeff Olsen-Biebighauser will not be serving on the committee and they will be short one member. Moving forward, if a Council President is not able to serve then the Vice President will serve instead.
- A recommendation was made that this policy be made clear to the council next January when they are electing the new executive committee

Youth

- An announcement in the Community Church asked for information about all graduations and they will be recognized in a later Community Church and on a bulletin board downstairs. High School graduates will be recognized during the 11:00 service on 5/31.

Outreach

- Fare for All numbers are way up! We went from serving 57 to 93 households.
- The Racial Justice Task Force is meeting to talk about small groups that could meet for intentional conversations about intercultural development.

- Clarification of an issue from Peace with Justice that came up during the Congregational Meeting: We have not made a commitment that we will spend money on solar panels. We have been looking at zero down options.

- Made in MN grant did not come through. Only 1 out of 6 projects got funded.
- Question about whether our roof is appropriate for solar. Sean reported that yes it is.
- Dave Moe would like to meet with the Property Committee to discuss options for how to move ahead on this issue.

Property

This Saturday 9am -12pm will be a work day on the outside grounds, weather permitting. Come and go as you can. If it rains an alternate date will be announced.

Unfinished Business

Building Project

Passed out a copy of what Ingrid wrote for The Community Church about the Building Renovations. This information also went out in the Community Church.

Passed out a packet (put together by Jay) with a history/synopsis of the project since 2009, along with a tentative timeline of the project moving forward.

Members were asked by Sara to share their personnel perspective about this project for the sake of a shared understanding of where each of us are at as current church leaders. Many thoughts were shared. Some suggestions are recorded here.

- o Move away from being dependent on investment income from designated funds for operations.
- o Think about every part of the building, even ones that are not going to be touched in this phase, and collect ideas for additional ways spaces could be used.
- o Think about keeping or creating small office spaces for community organizations that may need a home.
- o We could think about having greeters at the downstairs side door, to have a live presence to help welcome and direct people.

New Business

Job Description for the new position in Children and Family Ministry

- Increase from 10 to 20 hours a week.
- Interviewing process: Jay, Ann Schrooten and Sara Jensen will interview. Sara sent a note to Sunday School teachers and folks involved with Children and Family Ministry asking for ideas about the position.
- Someone brought up that this position will not have benefits because it is 20 hours. So if in the future if we were able to make it 30 hours we would be honoring our stated desire to provide benefits for all church employees.
- Suggestion made that financial stewardship look at whether we could access the Pafko funds.

Motion made and seconded to accept the job description with the posted salary range with wording edits (for clarity, not substantive). Friendly amendment made to task Financial Stewardship to look at funding sources for the rest of this year and next year. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:02 pm. Motion carried.

Next meeting: May 18, 2015.