

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, February 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Present: *Council members:* Jay Carlson, Ingrid Rasmussen, Sara Jensen, Theresa Rian, Laura Bolstad, Melanie Townsend, Gerry Berglin, Julie Cahoy, Judy Davison, Chris Engen, Sean Gosiewski, David Krig, Martin Raabe, and Roberta Shaw. *Guest:* Vicki Mann.

Absent: Cliff Brown.

Call to Order: Sara Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

1. Devotions: Sara Jensen led us in devotions.

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

3. Approve minutes from previous meeting: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

4. Reports:

a. Vice President:

Nothing to report.

b. President:

- The annual meeting is Sunday, January 29, after the second service. Please be available during the Adult Forum for a Q&A session. Each Council member is requested to bring two salads to share with the congregation.
- The Council was charged to think about the Executive team for next year; what each of us can contribute, and what gifts we see in others that are on the Council.
- Installation of the new Council will be Sunday, February 26.

c. Secretary:

- Next meeting will be Monday, February 20 at 7:00 pm. Theresa Rian volunteered to lead us in devotions and Roberta Shaw volunteered to provide refreshments.

d. Treasurer

- In 2016, average weekly attendance was 211 vs 216 in 2015.
- The year end report shows a net loss of \$3138.15 for the year. We did use the Pafko funds to offset the budget.
- We were almost \$22,000 under in regular offerings in what we had budgeted, and \$8,000 above in what we budgeted for interest and earnings.
- We underspent what we budgeted.
- The new boiler appears to be saving us some money; we were \$8,000 under.
- Last month's gas bill was almost half of what is used to be in these colder months (\$2,000 vs \$4,000).
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial reports. Motion carried.

e. Associate Pastor

- Nothing to report.

f. Lead Pastor

- In light of Kristen's increasing job responsibilities, Jay has decided to resign from his call as pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.
- He hopes to serve in this type of role again, and has nothing but love and gratitude for all of us.
- His last Sunday will be February 12.

5. Time for processing and emotion/feeling check in

- Council members expressed their gratitude for Jay's time and talents.

6. Pass out FAQ and Timeline of Transition Team

- Copies of potential FAQs and a timeline for the transition team were shared with the Council.

7. Vote on Transition Team Plan

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the transition team plan. Motion carried.

8. Committee Reports

- Please read the committee reports for recent news, events, and updates.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Sanctuary Congregation

- January 28 there will be a large gathering of supporters with ISALAH to show both visual and vocal support of this movement. Currently, 15 churches in Minnesota have decided to be either sanctuary or supporting churches and 15 churches are in discernment.
- Being a supporting congregation will take staff time, as ISALAH is clergy-centered.
- Meghan Olsen Biebighauser has been working with a small group of Holy Trinity members and has time to dedicate to this cause.
- There is a vague commitment for monetary support; as a supporting church, we could assist as needed and draw parameters around our involvement.
- This is a proactive measure, rather than reactionary. There is a strong sense of a call to do this, not just a knee-jerk reaction.
- A motion was made that Holy Trinity Lutheran Church pursue becoming a supporting church for the sanctuary movement, pending a conversation with the Swahili congregation's pastoral staff. Motion was seconded, approved. Motion carried.

10. New Business:

a. Nominating Committee additions

- Needs to be voted on at the annual meeting.
- The Nominating Committee consists of the 4 members completing their 3-year term on Council, plus 4 members of the congregation.
- A motion was made to have the following individuals comprise the 2017 Nominating Committee: Cliff Brown, Andrea Martin, Theresa Rian, Melanie Townsend, Connie Adams, Liz Blood, David Kohlstedt, and Lynda Nordholm (Sandy Hoverson as a potential backup). Motion was seconded and approved. Motion carried.

b. 2017 Church Budget

- Personnel requested \$60,000 more; were able to fund \$52,000 using up the Pafko fund and Wilkins estate. We were cautioned about funding ongoing expenses with one-time money.

- Financial Stewardship followed the Council's recommendation to cut mission budget line item.
- It was noted that giving did not go down after the Opening Doors Campaign began.
- A motion was made to task the Personnel Committee to review activities, salaries, and personnel within the next three to six months and come back with a clear plan for this year to remain within the budget provided and make a plan that will allow for perhaps a more modest request next year so that other components of the budget might be able to regain and perhaps enhance their support and activities even as we work to increase our income. Motion was seconded and approved. Motion carried.
- A motion was made to present the budget as presented to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting. Motion was seconded and approved. Motion carried.

c. Trinity Apartments Board Representation

- Currently, Jay serves on the Board for Trinity Apartments and will be leaving that position.
- Laura Bolstad has agreed to take that position. A motion was made to approve Laura's assumption of this role. Motion was seconded and approved. Motion carried.
- For future consideration, we should decide whether or not a pastor needs to be on the board.

d. Conference and Synod Assemblies

- The Conference assembly is February 26 at 1:30pm.
- The Synod assembly is May 5-6 – Pastor Ingrid, Roberta Shaw, and Chris Engen volunteered to attend.
- Pastor Ingrid will seek out a member of the congregation to attend.
- We also need a high school youth member to attend.

e. Special Appeals for 2017

- The special appeals for 2017 were motioned to be World Hunger and CTUL (Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha) – low wage worker justice movement. The motion was seconded and approved. Motion carried.

11. Discussion

- No further discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:31 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Townsend