

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Monday, February 20, 2017

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

Present: *Council members:* Ingrid Rasmussen, Theresa Rian, Bryan Kuzel, John Sulzbach, Melanie Townsend, Cliff Brown, Judy Davison, Michael Douglas, Chris Engen, Andrea Martin, Juliann Bretig Rohn, and Roberta Shaw. *Guest:* Vicki Mann. *Absent:* Dave Krig.

Call to Order: Theresa Rian called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

1. Devotions: Theresa Rian led us in devotions.

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

3. Review congregational goals: A motion was made to revise the second goal to replace the phrase “join with community partners working at these intersections,” to “be led by community partners and communities of color working at these intersections.” Motion was seconded and approved to make this change. Motion carried.

(1) Deepen our commitment to creative, inspiring, inclusive, and culturally competent worship services and the accompanying music program for all ages.

(2) Grow in competence related to issues of race, class, and gender in our congregational life, and be led by community partners and communities of color working at these intersections.

(3) Together with the whole church seek to build the commonwealth of God through welcoming the stranger, accompanying the vulnerable, and caring for creation.

(4) Assist members of all ages in connecting Christian faith with life in the public square.

(5) Create space for new members to share their gifts and build relationships.

4. Introductions: Those present introduced themselves, shared a favorite moment they’ve experienced at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and expressed a hope they have for the congregation in the next five years.

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

6. Approve minutes from annual meeting: A few adjustments were suggested for phrasing and spelling and then a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

7. Reports

a. Associate Pastor

- Pastor Ingrid extended a warm welcome to the council. She is delighted by the group the congregation has chosen. She reminded us that our service is important and that the congregation puts a lot of trust in the council to make decisions on behalf of the greater community and entreated us to honor that trust.

- She acknowledged that Pastor Jay is gone and that it is hard to believe that just last month was when his formal notice was given to us all. She thanked everyone for a rich day last Sunday at the farewell party. She acknowledged there’s sorrow for some, joy for others, and that no pastor is universally liked by a congregation. She reiterated that our congregation is healthy and well-suited for change.

- Ministry notes:

- The Encore and Nurturing Committees have created a group called *Ministry to and with the Aging* that has met three times so far to discuss downsizing, changing relationships, and where they find their hope. They will continue to meet after Lent. There have been 30-50 attendees thus far.
- Two book discussion books are forming around discussing *A Good Time for the Truth* and *This is Uprising*.
- The theme for Lent this year is Bind Us Together.
- There will be several new members joining the congregation soon.

b. President

- Theresa encouraged each Council member to keep the goals of the congregation at the forefront of our minds as we meet, discern, discuss, and work together this year. While making decisions this year, consider, “Is this about loving God and our neighbor?”
- We were reminded that each of us has been asked to serve on Council because of our unique gifts and she would like to see greater engagement by everyone and charged us to take risks, be bold, be vulnerable, and listen deeply.
- She is excited about what we can accomplish together; this year is full of possibilities.

c. Vice President

- Committee Reports:
 - Beginning next month, Bryan will expect each Council member to have read the committee reports prior to the meeting and we will briefly discuss highlights.
 - There will be an Adult Forum this Sunday to further discuss our role as a supporting church in the Sanctuary Movement.
 - The bread sharing ministry of Trinity of Minnehaha Falls was mentioned. The excess bread from Breadsmith and Cub is being picked up by Holy Trinity members and brought back to Trinity Apartments to be shared. The residents have been very appreciative. Zoe Martinez has been instrumental in creating this link.

d. Secretary

- A calendar of meetings was sent around so members could sign up for devotions and refreshments for the year.
- Next meeting will be Monday, March 20 at 7:00 pm.

e. Treasurer

- We are currently one month into the new year and though receipts are down we are not far enough into the year to fully gauge our financial status.
- Average attendance is up from 202 to 220, which was attributed to Pastor Jay’s farewell.
- The Adult Education line item is way over budget because all of their requests were submitted at once; the Youth Committee line item is over budget due to funds coming in for a trip.
- Stewardship and Personnel had difficulty generating a budget this past year. They are dedicated to changing things this year by starting the budgeting process in March rather than November/December.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial reports. Motion carried.

8. Update on pastoral transition

- The previous Council tasked the Personnel Committee (Phil, Deb, Sara, Theresa, Carol Berg) and Ingrid to interview 2-3 candidates for an Interim Lead Pastor.
- Committee came to a consensus that Mark Holman was the best fit for the congregation. He has gifts of strong listening and administrative skills, particularly in regards to staff organization and structure. He has served two recent interims in Fargo and Duluth in congregations much larger than our and in conflicted situations. His first day will be Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017.
- The Transition Team is in the process of organizing their first meeting to work on the MSP (Ministry Site Profile).

9. Synod Assembly

- Conference Assembly is February 26 at 1:30pm at University Lutheran Church of Hope.
- Synod Assembly is May 5-6 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey, MN. Pastor Ingrid, Roberta Shaw, and Chris Engen volunteered to attend. Bryan Kuzel may also be attending.
- Also need a high school youth member to attend.

10. Unfinished Business

Action item from Racial Justice working group

Last August, the Outreach Committee tasked the Council with discussing institutional racism within our church, which was done for several months. Theresa Rian read a synopsis that Sara Jensen wrote about the process, obstacles Council faced, and suggested next steps. These notes will be sent to the Outreach Committee as well as to the Council.

In light of these suggestions, a motion was made to:

- (1) find an IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory) facilitator who will work with us as a Council
- (2) devote some of the Council retreat time to working on the IDI
- (3) set aside time at each Council meeting to work on portions of the IDI individually with our facilitator.

The motion was seconded and approved. Motion carried.

11. New Business

Council one-year terms

It was determined by Council that there is not a gap where we see a demographic, skill, or need that isn't being filled other than a youth member, and that further discussion be directed toward how to engage youth in the processes of Council. This year, it was determined that we will not seek out members for one-year terms.

12. Discussion

- Council installment will be on February 26, 2017 at either service.

13. Closing

- The meeting concluded with each person present sharing a word about how they upon the conclusion of this first meeting as a new Council.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:07pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Townsend