

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Monday, March 20, 2017

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, April 17, 2017 at 7:00 pm

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

Call to order: Theresa Rian called the meeting to order at 7:11pm.

1. Devotions: John Sulzbach led us in devotions, centered on excerpts from the book “The Gift of Maybe.”

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

3. IDI presentation: Carrie Carroll gave a presentation centered on the IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory).

4. Review congregational goals:

- (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.

5. Introductions: Dave Krig and Mark Holman introduced themselves to the group by sharing a favorite moment they’ve experienced at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and expressed hopes they have for the congregation in the next five years.

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

7. Reports:

a. Vice President

- Committee Reports:
 - Bryan asked each member to share something that inspired them about the reports or a reflection they might have had while looking through them.

b. President

- IDI Work
 - Consider *why* we are doing this work, besides ourselves.
 - This will be challenging *and* beneficial.
 - The intention is to keep the group together as we go through this; we are stronger together as we go through this and are committed to change.

- Keep in mind those that may need to miss meetings and be intentional about keeping them in the circle.
- Retreat will be on Sunday, March 26 from 12:30-4:30 at Holy Trinity.
- Executive Committee put forth a recommendation that we use up to \$3500 in the Intercultural Development Fund for the IDI work that the Council does together. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation. Motion carried.

c. *Secretary*

- The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17 at 7:00pm. Cliff Brown has signed up to provide devotions (opening and closing reflections) and snacks for the evening.

d. *Treasurer*

- We are currently almost one quarter into the new year and though receipts are down we are not far enough into the year to fully gauge our financial status.
- Regular offerings are up because one family gave their entire pledge for the year in one lump sum.
- Office expenses are up due to an annual Dropbox fee that was paid.
- Property is seeing the results of a warm February as reflected by a lower heating bill.
- Stewardship and Personnel are going to meet soon to start the budgeting process for the next fiscal year.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial reports. Motion carried.

e. *Pastor Ingrid (as reported by Theresa Rian)*

- The Johnson Symposium dates will be changing from November 17-18 to November 10-11, 2017. Expect a sellout, as Emily Saliers has a strong following—she's half of the *Indigo Girls*.
- There will be 19 new members received into the congregation on Sunday. Introductions will be made during the Adult Forum, so please attend and welcome them.
- There are three Wednesday evenings in Lent remaining. Our final guest presenters will be Jim Daggett, Cate Anderson, and Marilyn Miller.

f. *Pastor Mark*

- He appreciates the warm welcome from everyone and dove right into the life of the church. Below are the highlights of the past month:
 - Worship – planning and leading services
 - Education – attended Confirmation sessions, rapid response training for ISAIAH's sanctuary program, Navigating Difficult Conversations about Race workshop, new member classes, and is forming a learning group for Palestine/Israel issues
 - Personnel – having 1:1 conversations with staff
 - Committees – met with Youth and Family Ministry, Peace and Justice, and Financial Stewardship
 - Pastoral Care – hospital and home visits
- Early observations:
 - Strengths in leadership (lay and staff)
 - Clear sense of ministry values, commitments, and goals
 - Patient readiness for transition and call process
- Needs attention:
 - Developing a staff structure that supports the mission and goals of the church and stays in line with the financial capacities of the congregation
 - Explore the development of a stewardship program for Holy Trinity that could augment the committee work already being done in the area of finance

8. Transition team report (Pastor Mark):

- Next steps:
 - Review various consultants' reports from the past decade pertaining to our visioning, communications, fund-raising, and pastoral search processes

- Choosing leadership for the roles of Chair, Scribe, and Liaison to the Council
- Developing a communications plan using the newsletter and website
- Developing a plan to provide input opportunities for all members in shaping the MSP
- Complete the MSP and present to the Council by July/August

9. New business:

- Many years ago, a member of the congregation performed a one-person play entitled “Clara’s Visitor,” about Robert Schuman’s wife. Proceeds of the event (\$616) were to go to mental health resources. The money has been sitting in an account for approximately 12 years. A motion was made to donate this money to Mental Health Connect, which is an initiative that stems from Bethlehem Lutheran Church and provides mental health navigators to assist residents in South Minneapolis. The motion was seconded and approved. Motion carried.

10. Discussion: No further discussion.

11. Closing: The meeting concluded with a poem by Emily Dickinson: *“Hope is the thing with feathers...”*

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:16pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Townsend