

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Monday, May 15, 2017

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, June 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm

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

Call to order: Bryan Kuzel called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

1. Devotions: Chris Engen opened our meeting with devotions centered on the theme of this year's synod assembly: Real Presence in Our Neighborhoods with Our Neighbors.

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

3. 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.

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

5. IDI Activity: Those present paired up and discussed step 2 of the IDI. Items that were discussed included:

- a. Reflect on your experiences with culturally diverse groups.
- b. How have your top three diversity dimensions influenced your perspective toward cultural similarities and differences? Your work practices and approaches both within and outside the church?

6. Reports:

a. Vice President

- Committee Reports:
 - Bryan asked each member to share something that interested them about the reports that were submitted this month.

b. President

- Nothing to report.

c. Secretary

- The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 19 at 7:00pm. Juliann Breting Rohn has signed up to provide devotions (opening and closing reflections) and Melanie Townsend will be providing snacks for the evening.

d. Treasurer

- We have a large surplus compared to last year at this time because two families paid their yearly pledge in advance. In addition, we received \$25,000 in administrative fees from Trinity Apartments, which is an increase from last year.
- We had one larger expense for property assessments.
- June 7 8:30-11:30 Mother Earth Garden – landscaping ; up to \$5000 for landscaping
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial reports. Motion carried.

e. Pastor Ingrid

- Her pastoral care during the past month included: a funeral for a non-member, premarital counseling for five couples, a funeral for Sue Salm, and a baptism for Sylvie Becker.
- She gave a brief report at the synod assembly about our church's racial justice work.
- She led a service on human trafficking with other churches, which was broadcast on local television.
- There are three baptisms on the horizon.
- On Saturday, May 20 Danya Werth will have his Eagle Scout Court of Honor and launch the use of the pizza oven at 1:00pm.
- Summer schedules are going out in the mail soon.
- She leaves for Germany next week, with the bishop, to attend Germany's Premiere Celebration of the Reformation (May 23-June 1).
- We received a \$1000 gift from a fringe member that will be split equally and used to support ISAIAH's immigration activities and the other half will be left to the discretion of the pastoral staff to fulfill the desires of the donor.

f. Pastor Mark

- Transition Team Update: Working on the MSP
 - Demographic Research from ENVIRONICS Analytics – HTLC boundaries were defined as: north I-94, east Mississippi River, west Cedar, and south Minnehaha Creek.
 - Congregation characteristics survey for council and staff will be completed.
 - Fellowship tables will be happening soon to discuss hopes, concerns, and perceptions of desired skills for the Lead Pastor.
 - Having conversations with committees, plans for "suggestions box," and possibility of a survey.
 - MSP will be received and approved by Council in August.
- Committee Involvements
 - Financial Stewardship
 - Addressing longer term (3-5 years) projections of income.
 - Planning a more robust Stewardship Plan – culminating on November 19.
 - Special appeal for CTUL will be mailed out in May, Adult Forum to follow on July 16.
 - Commitment of \$5,000 for landscaping project with Mother Earth Gardens.
 - Recommendation: annual meeting with Financial Stewardship and Council.
 - Personnel
 - Good participation between Financial Stewardship and Personnel.
 - They will be sharing the Personnel Policy update with HTLC staff on May 23, which will then be presented to Council for review and approval on June 19.
 - Area of concern: the sustainability of our budget and current staffing are not in sync, there is a significant budget shortfall that needs to be addressed.
- Looking Ahead
 - Call Committee selected in September
 - Applications need to be available in August, interview and selection process needs to occur.
 - According to the by-laws, this committee needs to consist of six elected HTLC members; recommend that a Council liaison, youth representative, and a transition team member also be on this committee.

- Community Church newsletter will be transitioning to an electronic edition.
- Dennis Nordholm has been hired for the part time custodian position.

7. Discussion: No further discussion.

8. Closing: A word of prayer was offered as a sending.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:05pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Townsend