

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Monday, September 18, 2017

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, October 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Present: *Council members:* Hans Lee, Theresa Rian, Bryan Kuzel, John Sulzbach, Melanie Townsend, Juliann Breting Rohn, Judy Davison, Michael Douglas, Chris Engen, Dave Krig, Andrea Martin, and Roberta Shaw. *Guests:* Meghan Olsen Biebighauser and Deb Sodt. *Absent:* Cliff Brown and Ingrid Rasmussen.

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

1. Devotions: Judy Davison led us in devotions with a poem about laughter.

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 from August's meeting. Motion carried.

5. New Business

a. Exodus Lending – Meghan Olsen Biebighauser

When Exodus Lending incorporated, their bylaws had a ratification requirement whereby HTLC's council had to approve Exodus Lending's board members. Since Exodus Lending is now a separate entity from the church, five members of the congregation are on their current board, an informal relationship with the organization will continue, and Exodus Lending will still submit an annual report to the church council, a motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaw change to no longer require ratification of their board members by HTLC's church council. Motion carried.

b. Ministry Site Profile – Deb Sodt

We discussed the details of the Ministry Site Profile which will be shared with the congregation on September 24. A motion was made and seconded to approve the MSP. Motion carried.

6. Reports:

a. Vice President

Committee Reports – Bryan asked those present to share something that interested them about the reports that were submitted this month.

b. President

- Stewardship Sunday will have a video this year that Keith Olstad is compiling. Be prepared at the next meeting to share a single word or phrase about what your experience with Council has been like for you.
- The Personnel Committee is meeting monthly and working on overall budget scenarios to make sure accounts balance while honoring the congregation's desire to pay staff within synod guidelines. They will be going on a retreat at the end of October and putting together a charter regarding what their role is as a committee for the church.
- There will be a focus group assembling to take a look at how we should move forward with our community organizing, new initiatives, and partnerships with other organizations.

c. Secretary

The next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, October 16 at 7:00pm. Roberta Shaw volunteered to lead the meeting with devotions and close the meeting with a reflection and Bryan Kuzel volunteered to bring refreshments.

d. Treasurer

- What a great month to be Treasurer! Our regular offerings are only down by \$98, which is amazing at this point in the year! This is due to a savings in personnel with staffing transitions.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

e. Pastor Hans

- We are currently \$10,000 ahead of last year in annual giving, which suggests members are satisfied with the church—our ministry is strong.
- He is working with the Personnel Committee to develop various pastoral compensation scenarios.
- The Stewardship Campaign, "Growing in Hope" will begin soon.

7. IDI Discussion: Those present paired up and talked about what values were impressed upon us as children. On Sunday, October 8, we will meet from 12:30-2:00pm to discuss steps 3 and 4 of the process with our facilitators from Augsburg.

8. Old Business:

a. Budget

Eventually, we will be voting on a budget for 2018. We need to consider personnel, property, and benevolence. Be prayerful and mindful while discerning what this means for you personally as well as for the congregation as a whole.

9. Discussion: The pergola by the rain garden was destroyed during a police chase. Investigation is pending.

10. Closing: Judy Davison ended the meeting with a prayer for laughter.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:10pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Townsend