

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Monday, December 18, 2017

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, January 15, 2017 at 7:00 pm

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

Call to order: Theresa Rian called the meeting to order at 6:49 pm.

1. Welcome: Those present shared important events from the past month. Pastor Ingrid was welcomed back after her parental leave; she is happy to serve and further the mission of the church.

2. Opening Prayer: Pastor Hans led us in prayer.

3. Approve minutes from previous Council meeting: A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes from November's meeting.

4. Reports:

a. Vice President

i. The Financial Stewardship Committee recommended that the Council approve two special appeals for consideration at the annual meeting: 1) Do Justice Retreat scholarships which is a pool of funds collected for metro area teens to attend the retreat in March and 2) World Hunger. A motion was made and carried to approve the recommendation.

ii. The Financial Stewardship Committee requested funds for organizing training to supplement the funding remaining in the Organizing budget. The amount of \$1,775.11 was requested and would come from the Audrey Johnson estate fund, which is an unrestricted account. This training will take place in January and three members will be attending. A motion was made and carried to approve the request.

b. President

The Nominating Committee has met two times, calls have gone out, and we are waiting for responses. They are working on a document with Church Council "job descriptions," nuts and bolts, and what to expect when on the Council. The committee is also working on a document to share the process of how candidates were selected so this information can be shared with future committees.

c. Secretary

The next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, January 15. Melanie will contact the members who volunteered to bring food and share devotions prior to the meeting.

d. Treasurer

- We are doing well financially as a congregation. The gap between the actual amounts received and budgeted items paid out is not very large.
- A motion was made and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.

e. Pastor Hans

Nothing to report.

f. Pastor Ingrid

Nothing to report. Happy to be back.

5. Continuing Business

a. Budget/discussion of commitments

Discussion centered around the projected income and expenses for 2018 and how they will impact the budget for the year. Pledged and regular offerings are projected to remain relatively static. Our two largest expenditure lines are Personnel (salary and benefits for HTLC employees) and Synod Mission Support (giving to the Minneapolis Area Synod and, by extension, to the wider church). Personnel anticipates a rise in costs for 2018 due to several factors (e.g., cost of living, insurance costs, number of years of experience that a new associate pastor will bring). In 2017, HTLC gave \$75,000, or approximately 14% of regular offerings to Synod Mission Support. This was a decrease from approximately 18% in 2016. The synod asks congregations to consider 10%. If we seek to fulfill Personnel requests and keep the Synod Mission Support at \$75,000, we can anticipate a \$6,000 to \$28,000 budget gap between anticipated income and anticipated expenses. In light of this dialogue, the Council recommended reducing Mission Support from 14% to 10% of offerings for consideration to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 28.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Townsend