

## Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Monday, January 15, 2018

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

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

**Call to order:** Theresa Rian called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

**1. Devotions:** Bryan Kuzel led us in devotions with reflections from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**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 December's meeting. Motion carried.

**5. IDI Discussion:** To bring our work as a group together to a close, Theresa invited those present to reflect on the following two questions and write out responses, to possibly be shared at the annual meeting:

- a. What have you learned about yourself in relation to your own culture?
- b. What have you learned about yourself in relation to being in diverse communities?

**6. Reports:**

*a. Vice President*

- i. The Financial Stewardship Committee recommended that the Council approve a third special appeal for consideration at the annual meeting: Support for the Minneapolis Area Synod's Congregational Organizer for Racial Justice. This would be in addition to the Do Justice Retreat scholarships and World Hunger. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation. Motion carried.
- ii. The Financial Stewardship Committee requested confirmation from the Council that the budgeting process will begin by setting aside 10% of projected donations (regular, seasonal, special, and loose offerings) for Synod Support. Council affirmed this by accepting this as a formal motion, which was seconded, and unanimously approved.

*b. President*

- Theresa expressed her appreciation for everyone's service on the Council this year and urged those who will continue to serve to consider what leadership they can provide the congregation moving forward.

- The annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 28 following the second service. Please bring two large salads to share.
- After the annual meeting, there will be a short meeting to elect new leadership for the Council.
- Next week's Adult Forum will focus on items that will be on the annual meeting agenda—Council members were encouraged to attend in order to assist in fielding questions.

*c. Secretary*

The next Council meeting scheduled for Monday, February 19, 2018. John Sulzbach volunteered to lead the group with devotions and close with a reflection and Juliann Breting Rohn volunteered to bring snacks to share.

*d. Treasurer*

- We had a very successful Stewardship Campaign this year, which allowed us more flexibility in budgeting for the coming year. The budget was fulfilled for the year and the books will be audited by an outside firm later this week.
- Duly noted items from this past year: there was a 50% increase in Special Funds over the past year and the Opening Doors campaign continues to be funded faithfully.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

*e. Pastor Ingrid*

- With all of the changes that have taken place during this year, the leadership of the congregation has led us to a stable ending of the year. Ingrid thanked Vicki Mann in particular for her service.
- She met with the Personnel and Financial Stewardship Committees to prepare a budget for the coming year.
- She met with the Transition Team to make revisions to the MSP, which has been submitted to the Synod office.
- Pastoral acts in the past month included: Advent, Christmas, meals supporting local businesses during Advent, and funeral for Melba McIntyre. Future events include: funeral for Mary Franzen, five baptisms between now and Easter, and installation ceremony on March 11.
- She attended an executive skills seminar for continuing education recently as well.

*f. Pastor Hans*

- He has transitioned to the role of Associate Interim Pastor and continues to be involved in the work of this congregation.

## **7. Ongoing Business**

*a. 2018 Budget*

A motion was made to recommend the proposed budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded. It was noted that the budget will have all staff positions within Synod guidelines. It was also noted that the 10% set aside for Synod support will be dedicated to the Synod. Motion carried.

*b. Updated MSP*

The Council approved the updated MSP via email prior to this evening's meeting. The Call Committee will meet with Ingrid next week to discuss questions that can be used to interview candidates.

## **8. New Business:**

*a. 2018 Church Council Candidates*

The following people will be introduced as Council candidates at the annual meeting: Nicki Hines, Katelyn Holloway, Ben Martinez, and Donna Scott.

*b. 2018 Nominating Committee Candidates*

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Executive Committee to confer with the current Nominating Committee to prepare a list of candidates for next year's Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

*c. Documents: Nominating Committee Guidelines and Council Job Description*

It was advised that the next Council be tasked with continuing to work on these documents as well as revising the Council Handbook.

*d. Council and Synod Assemblies, February 25 and May 4-5, Respectively*

Bryan Kuzel and David Krig expressed interest in attending.

**9. Discussion:** No further discussion.

**10. Closing:** Bryan Kuzel ended the meeting with a prayer from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Townsend