

MINUTES FROM 114th ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 28, 2018

Cantor David Sims led those present in the song, "Dona Nobis Pacem." President Theresa Rian welcomed members, gave a brief invocation and called the meeting to order at 12:30 P.M.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Melanie Townsend presented the 2017 annual meeting minutes that were previously approved by the Church Council. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting, January 29, 2017. Motion carried. She then called attention to the parish statistics on page 8 of the report that showed an increase of baptized membership from 1,222 to 1,234 during the year. Average worship attendance at the end of the year was 209, which was a drop from 211 the previous year.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Theresa Rian reflected on the past year and the changes this community of faith has experienced. We celebrated pastoral transitions. We were blessed with two Lead Interim Pastors. As a congregation we reflected upon who we are and where we would like to be heading. We embraced the call process, which ultimately led to extending the call of Lead Pastor to Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, who has accepted. Through the changes and challenges of transitions, we continued to worship, sing, praise, think, laugh, cry, rejoice, breathe, discern, educate, persist, and lead.

The Church Council took on the work of building intercultural competency. Using the Intercultural Development Inventory results as a guide, each month we took time to discuss different aspects of who we are, our cultural experiences, and our values, in the hopes to move along the continuum together. In our last meeting together, we reflected upon two questions: What did you learn about yourself with respect to your own culture? What did you learn about yourself in the context of being with diverse cultures? As a group, we learned that our culture influences how we relate to others and that could impede our interactions with others if we are not open to diverse opinions and thoughts. We want to seek others out, be more adaptable, recognize the need to listen, and acknowledge that we all have prejudices. The IDI work we did has had and will continue to have a positive impact on this congregation.

She concluded with offering her thanks for having the privilege to serve this congregation and vibrant community.

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen expressed her gratitude for being called to serve as Lead Pastor. She is honored to be serving in this role and is looking forward to seeing where the Spirit leads us as we continue this journey together. She highlighted some of the markers of vibrancy of our congregation amidst the time of transition: steady worship attendance, growing financial support, racial justice discussions growing, listening circles for members who identify as people of color, final walkthrough on the building renovation, our growing youth program, active participation in justice movements, and welcoming 30 new members in the past year.

Interim Pastor Hans Lee expressed his thanks for the opportunity to serve among us. He views us as a healthy, thriving congregation that is intentional and thoughtful. We have a strong staff and lay leadership and he believes we are on a strong, faithful trajectory to continue to serve God's mission for years to come.

UPDATE ON PASTORAL TRANSITION

Sara Jensen, Member of the Call Committee shared the next steps for calling an Associate Pastor. The synod has received names of potential candidates from recommendations by congregants, self-selected pastors, and synod staff. The synod will pare down the candidate list to ten individuals and submit the list to the Call Committee. Next, the Call Committee will review resumes and determine which candidates to interview. The first round of interviews will be completed in February. The second round of interviews will be conducted in March. Pastor Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen will be involved in the interviews and will have a voice in the discernment process, but she will not have a vote in the final call. Sara concluded with thanks and appreciation for prayers and good wishes for the entire committee during this process.

REFLECTION ON 2017 CONGREGATIONAL GOALS

Last year, the congregation approved five goals, as listed below. A video was shared which showed how we are working toward achieving these 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 join with community partners 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.

DEVELOPMENT OF 2018 CONGREGATIONAL GOALS

Those present were prompted to think about the following scenario: Imagine that you are sitting at Holy Trinity's 119th annual meeting (five years from now). Looking back at the past five years, what are you most glad to see reflected in our congregation's ministry? Approximately ten minutes were allotted for people to write out responses to this prompt. A basket will also be available in the Community Room for the next two weeks so those who are not present or those who need more time to process will be able to submit their thoughts as well. The responses were collected and the Church Council will use these responses to formulate goals for the coming year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Sulzbach directed the congregation's attention to the financial statements on pages 11-13. An outside accountant audited the balance sheet presented on page 11. We have a really strong endowment investment that is funded mostly by bequests. Our mortgage is down to \$497,000, pledges are on track, and this will be paid off in two years. A motion was made and seconded to approve the balance sheet adoption. Motion carried. A motion was made and seconded to approve the statement of receipts and expenditures on page 12. Prior to accepting, a brief note was made indicating that there was less than a \$100 difference between the receipts and expenses—we did not fulfill the budget, but it was balanced. Special funds that we made contributions to this year included ELCA World Hunger and Development, African Pastors' Endowment, CTUL, Longfellow Alternative High School, and Disaster Relief. Remember to include HTLC in your estate planning; some changes may be in effect due to tax law revisions made January 1, 2018. A motion was made and seconded to accept treasurer's report. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

President Theresa Rian presented the slate of candidates as prepared by the Nominating Committee: Nicki Hines, Katelyn Hollaway, Benjamin Martinez, and Donna Scott. Theresa called three times for additional nominations from the floor and, receiving none, declared the nominations closed. A motion was made and seconded that the slate of four candidates for the 2018 Church Council be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF 2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The slate for the 2018 Nominating Committee was presented: Cathy Alpizar, Joyce Peterson, and Kevin Proescholdt, in addition to outgoing council members Judy Davison, Chris Engen, David Krig, and Roberta Shaw. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

PROPOSED BUDGET AND SPECIAL APPEALS FOR 2018

Treasurer John Sulzbach called the congregation's attention to the proposed 2018 budget on page 16. Council decided to formalize the setting of synod support to 10% for the top four receipt categories: regular offerings, seasonal offerings, loose offerings, and special gifts. This way, our synod support will grow as our budget grows over time. Consideration was not given to interest and earnings to include in this formula, and was suggested for possible inclusion, moving forward. In terms of percentage and dollars, we are still near the top in giving among other churches in the synod. Personnel is currently our largest expenditure. This is the first year in recent history that all staff salaries and pastors will be paid within synod guidelines and we are now working towards extending benefits for all. The Pafko estate still was not needed to subsidize staffing revenue but is still available for that purpose. There is not a capital improvement project currently in the works. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2018 budget. Motion carried.

John reported that the Financial Stewardship Committee and Council authorized appeals for the following special funds in 2018: ELCA World Hunger, Do Justice Retreat metro-wide fund, and the Minneapolis Area Synod Racial Justice Organizer which would supplement a position that has already been hired. A motion was made and seconded to approve the special appeals for 2018. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE GOALS AND TASKS FOR 2018 AND REPORTING AND INFORMATION FROM OUR PARTNERS

President Theresa Rian encouraged the congregation to read through the various committee goals and tasks for the coming year in addition to reviewing the reports submitted by our partnering organizations.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to add. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 P.M. after a word of thanks and a dismissal.