

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
JUNE 18, 2018**

**Present:** David Krig, Ben Martinez, Katlyn Hollaway, Donna Scott, Juliann Breting Rohn, Chris Engen, Judy Davison, Nicki Hines, Ingrid Rasmussen, Michael Douglas, John Sulzbach, Roberta Shaw, Vicki Mann

**Absent:** Bryan Kuzel

Juliann called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**Devotions:** Juliann led us in singing “When Jesus Went to Egypt,” a new hymn in response to the break-up of immigrant families.

**Check-in:** Several people shared recent events in their lives.

**Review congregational mission:** Council discussed the statement “We respond to human need as servants and advocates. We endeavor to be prophetic in the search for justice and peace.”

Council *approved the May 21, 2018 Council minutes.*

**Vice President’s Report:** There was brief discussion of items in the committee reports.

**Secretary’s Report:** Donna has devotions next month. When more details are determined, Roberta will send out an email to coordinate rides and potluck needs for our July meeting at Bryan’s home.

**Treasurer’s Report:** John highlighted some items of the financial reports. He also gave the history of the African Pastors’ Retirement Fund. Years ago, a \$25,000 fund was invested to provide interest to send to the church in Tanzania (\$1500/year) for pastors’ retirement support. The Trinity Apartments management fee was received in May. Pastor Khabebe’s moving expenses will come out of the personnel line item of the budget, as we had savings in that area over the last month due to not being fully pastorally staffed. Council *voted to accept the financial reports.*

**Lead Pastor’s Report:**

Ingrid recently attended the Festival of Homiletics in Washington, DC, then had a week of vacation.

Plans are moving ahead for Trinity Apartments’ ownership changes. Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation has withdrawn its 1/3 ownership. We will have a congregational meeting soon to approve Holy Trinity’s withdrawal from ownership. When we do so, we will regain some property and easements around the apartment building and church.

Thirteen children attended first communion instruction.

We honored six graduates at worship.

The Personnel Committee is looking at staffing needs/costs through 2023, in an attempt to look further ahead and be prepared for any needed changes.

Ingrid met with the lay confirmation teachers and is so grateful for how they worked hard, with enthusiasm, to keep the program going during pastoral changes.

The Innovation Hub grant application was approved. Augsburg will assign a person to work with us for 8-10 months, 15-20 hours/week to help us learn about 20-somethings in our neighborhood.

Virginia Jury's funeral was held last week.

There was joint worship with MN Swahili Christian Congregation on Sunday. At the adult forum, Pastor Andrea spoke about the fear that many in the congregation are feeling related to U.S. immigration policy.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Communities of Calling grant:** In the Council's straw poll last month, the human sexuality subject rose to the top for emphasis in this program. Ann Schrooten and Deb Anderson will take leadership on this. Meghan Olsen-Biebighauser is preparing the grant application for the July 15 deadline.

**Signage Committee:** The Racial Justice Committee is wanting good welcome signage. Michael Douglas will help with this. Donna will be a resource.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nominating Committee:** David will take the initiative to convene the first meeting of the committee. It would be ideal to have names of nominees ready for the Council's in December.

**Village Trust funding request:** Village Trust is a new, African-American-led, cooperative credit union on the north side. Holy Trinity is hoping to help provide seed money by investing in certificates of deposit with them. We are not obligated to keep the CDs there once they come due. Village Trust's motto is "Not for profit, not for charity, but for service." The Council *approved and seconded the motion to authorize a pledge of \$15,000 for The Village Trust, a minority run credit union being established to serve low income people. This would be an investment of existing funds and earn a rate of \$1%, a little less than what we get on our Mission One CDs.*

**Welcoming Pastor Angela Khabeb:** The Council brainstormed about how we, as a council and as a congregation, can welcome her and her family. Katelyn and Chris will connect with other congregants who are working on the congregation's welcome. Juliann will contact Libby Olstad and Sara Jensen about their thoughts. Katelyn is willing coordinate the welcome.

**Structural engineering analysis of roof** to determine if our roof can support solar panels: The Council *approved a motion to allow the solar working group to contract for a rooftop engineering report to see if rooftop solar is a viable option for us, with the understanding that the cost of the assessment will be covered by a donation which has already been offered.*

**Personnel Committee's request:** Per Personnel's request and recommendation, the Council *voted to ratify Randy Nelson as an at-large member of the committee.*

**Bathrooms:** Ingrid spoke about the need for more welcoming, inclusive, accessible, nursing-friendly bathrooms. The expense would be high, but it is becoming more evident that people are needing such spaces. The Council will keep considering this over the next months.

**Discussion:** Donna wondered what actions individuals and the congregation might take to counteract the disturbing direction of U. S. immigration policy. Others expressed their frustration and need for direction. Ingrid and Meghan Olsen-Biebighauser will pass along suggestions for action.

Juliann closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.