

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
JANUARY 27, 2019**

Ann Schrooten and Trinity Village Singers led the congregation in singing “God Is Here Today.”

President Bryan Kuzel convened the meeting and read a prayer.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Roberta Shaw presented the minutes of the 2018 annual meeting, previously approved by the Church Council.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2018 annual meeting. Motion carried.

Two items in the parish statistics were noted: a baptized membership increase from 1,234 to 1,253 in the past year; average Sunday worship attendance increase from 211 to 222.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Bryan Kuzel noted that this is the 115th year of Holy Trinity’s life.

Over the past year:

- We called Associate Pastor Angela Khabeb and are blessed to have her in our community.
- With congregational input, the Council created congregational goals.
- We received an Innovation Hub Grant (Augsburg University), providing funding for a project focused on connections with young adults. Asefa Melka Wakjira is helping with the early stages of this project.
- We received a Communities of Calling Grant (St. John’s University). It provides funding with a broad focus on “vocation.”
- The Council approved bringing a Racial Justice Statement and bylaw changes to a congregational vote.
- Thank you to our excellent Pastors, staff, committee leaders and members, and contributors for all the work they do.

As in 1904 we are faced with a time of immense possibility and hope, much work still needs to be done, and we need to remain focused on living out Christ’s welcome in our community.

LEAD PASTOR’S REPORT

Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen noted that it has been a year since she was called to be Lead Pastor and expressed her gratitude for the last twelve months of our shared story, highlighting several of the many events and activities of 2018:

- Lent focus on renunciation of the forces that are in opposition to God’s work
- the Sanctuary Working Group’s work on behalf of the congregation as a Sanctuary Supporting Congregation
- Meagan McLaughlin’s temporary term of service
- 27 new members received
- work on a long-term preservation plan for Trinity Apartments
- Bibles given to fifth graders
- the Racial Justice Group’s hard work on drafting a Racial Justice Statement
- blessing of six high school graduates
- annual worship and a meal with the Swahili congregation

- wonderful guest preachers over the summer
 - confirmation of thirteen students
 - participation in Open Streets on Minnehaha Avenue in July
 - receipt of Augsburg University's Riverside Innovation Hub Grant (\$30,000) to deepen our ministry to young adults
 - support for Fiona Carlson who is spending a year in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) as an ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer
 - Communities of Calling Grant (\$30,000) from the Collegeville Institute (St. John's) to deepen our sense of calling and vocation
 - Pastor Angela's installation on September 16
 - Johnson Symposium entitled "Repentance and Resistance"
 - Confirmation of twelve students
 - All Saints commemoration
 - adult forum series "Our Embodied Selves: Demystifying the LGBTQIA Alphabet Soup and Claiming our Welcome"
 - Christmas Eve worship reminder that the light of Christ shines in and around us
 - 2018 as a generous year of giving, with receipts meeting expenses
- Pastor Ingrid expressed thanks to God for the leadership of Pastor Angela Khabeb and all the church staff.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Angela Khabeb expressed her pleasure with the way that she and Pastor Rasmussen work as a team. It brings her joy to to be serving a healthy congregation, to be part of the Holy Trinity family. A recent highlight for Pastor Khabeb was a 24-hour retreat with the youth. It was an honor to be with that great group.

Excerpts from Pastor Khabeb's written report (full text in the 2019 Annual Meeting packet):

I began my call at Holy Trinity on August 1, 2018 and celebrated my installation on September 16, 2018. My brief time with you has been filled with joy, excitement, and lots of learning. We've enjoyed a whirlwind of activity and through it all, God has shown us abundant faithfulness.

I am overjoyed to join the Holy Trinity ministry team. Holy Trinity is blessed with extraordinary people who are dedicated to the body of Christ. Our vibrant congregation is filled with amazing ministries and compassionate outreach. Thank you so much for welcoming me and my family into your lives and into your hearts. We are a family—an imperfect, struggling, growing, amazing, powerful family of God. Fortunately, God's narrative is big enough to encompass all of our stories because the divine narrative has no beginning and it has no end. Therefore, we continue our ministry together with hopeful hearts and open spirits. "The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy." (Psalm 126:3)

CONGREGATIONAL GOALS

The 2018 congregational goals, which are ongoing for 2019, were reviewed:

- Continue to grow in competency and commitment to racial justice, moving from awareness to action within our local community
- Grow in competency and commitment to issues of gender and sexuality in our congregation

- Nurture faith and attend to our spiritual lives through education and faith practices
At tables, parishioners discussed these goals and were encouraged to submit their thoughts in writing.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Sulzbach presented the December 31, 2018 financial reports.

The balance sheet shows an endowment of over \$1 million. We are on track with the Opening Doors campaign pledges.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 31, 2018 balance sheet. Motion carried.

The statement of receipts and expenditures shows that we fulfilled the budget through fulfilled pledges. Personnel expenses were less than budgeted because of staff transitions. Youth expenses were over budget because of a larger confirmation group who went to Heifer Ranch. The new boiler is saving us \$2,000/year.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the statement of receipts and expenditures. Motion carried.

The report of special funds receipts was discussed. The amount for Longfellow School reflects people's desire to give beyond the special appeal of a prior year.

The outside accountant certified that our financial records are in good order.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Bryan Kuzel presented the slate of candidates prepared by the 2018 Nominating Committee (Joyce Peterson, Kevin Proescholdt, Judy Davison, Chris Engen, David Krig, Roberta Shaw) The Council nominees: Tom Cahoy, Amy Froiland-Parada, Steve Murray, Kathy Ohler.

The president called three times for additional nominations from the floor. There were none, and President Kuzel declared the nominations closed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the nominees by acclamation. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new nominees for Church Council. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF 2019 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bryan Kuzel presented the slate of candidates for the 2019 Nominating Committee. They are Tom Kleven, Mike Nevergall, Libby Olstad and four Council members completing their terms at the end of 2019—Michael Douglas, Bryan Kuzel, Juliann Breting Rohn, and John Sulzbach.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the candidates for the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

PROPOSED BUDGET

Treasurer John Sulzbach led discussion.

Administrative fees coming from Trinity Apartments will increase because one of the three administrators is no longer in the partnership. As approved by the congregation a year ago, synod support is set at 10% of regular, seasonal, loose and special gift offerings. Funds that were previously in the Peace with Justice

Committee budget will now fold into the Committee for Public Voice budget. We received a special gift to start a pastors' discretionary fund, to be used by the pastors for small needs that arise, so that they don't have to go to Council for approval. The Outreach Committee budget is increased because an anonymous donor gave \$5,000 for racial justice work. Exodus Lending is no longer in the budget as Exodus now operates separately from Holy Trinity. Peace with Justice has always budgeted for funds to give to other organizations; this needs to be reviewed by the new Committee for Public Voice. For the second year in a row, staff and pastors are paid within synod guidelines. Staffing and budget decisions are being made around the upcoming departure of Parish Organizing Leader Meghan Olsen-Biebighauser.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2019 budget. Motion carried.

2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN HOPES

These hopes were not discussed at this meeting. Details are included in the 2019 Annual Meeting packet.

2019 SPECIAL APPEALS

The Financial Stewardship Committee and Church Council have authorized appeals for the following special funds in 2019: ELCA World Hunger and Sanctuary Support.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2019 special appeals. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE GOALS AND TASKS FOR 2019

President Kuzel directed the congregation to the committee goals as outlined in the packet. Peace with Justice for All Creation will be incorporated into the Committee for Public Voice.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Racial Justice Statement: Bryan thanked the racial justice group for bringing this before so many groups in congregation. The Minneapolis Area Synod asked all congregations to do a statement. At this time, there are no plans to distribute our statement synod-wide.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Racial Justice Statement. Motion carried.

Proposed Bylaw Changes: Council approved bringing to the annual meeting a proposed bylaw change to delete the language about the Committee on Peace and Justice for all Creation and Working Groups for Neighborhood Issues and to add language about the new Committee on Public Voice and Organizing. Meghan Olsen-Biebighauser presented the rationale, explaining that this would bring administrative and funding support to all working groups and that the work of the Committee on Peace and Justice for All Creation and Working Groups for Neighborhood Issues would continue.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaw changes. Motion carried.

WORD OF THANKS

Pastor Ingrid expressed thanks to Vicki Mann and Sue Roberts for their work on preparing the agenda and reports and to the meal organizers. She also thanked Bryan Kuzel for his presidential leadership and the four outgoing Council members for their service.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Roberta Shaw