

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2019

Present: Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastor Angela Khabeb, Nicki Hines, Juliann Breting Rohn, Ben Martinez, Michael Douglas, Tom Cahoy, Bryan Kuzel, Donna Scott, Amy Froiland-Parada, John Sulzbach, Kathy Ohler, Steve Murray, Katelyn Hollaway

Absent: N/A

Nicki reviewed the agenda.

Devotions: Donna read a prayer from a collection of prayers and paintings from Ann Gerondelis.

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes:

- *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the January Council Meeting. Motion carried.*
- *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting. Motion carried.*
- *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting in January. Motion carried.*

Council Member Orientation

Nicki discussed the Council Handbook that was sent out to all the council members. Ingrid reviewed the *Information and Background on Holy Trinity Finances* in some depth, explaining the sources of income and budgeting process as well as accounts. She answered questions from the council members.

Reports

Nicki gave general updates:

Votes are by majority, not consensus, so it is very acceptable to voice your disagreements with anything.

Wednesday Lenten dinners: Nicki is looking for volunteers from council to help pick up and serve the soup supper on Wednesday, March 13. Volunteers to help serve: Ben, John, Tom, Katelyn, Amy, Steve and Kathy can help. Nicki to send email to the seven and copy Vicki. They will then decide amongst them who will do what.

New minutes process: Donna will complete them within a week of the council meeting. They will then be reviewed and approved by Nicki, Ingrid, and Angela. The “draft” minutes will be posted as a draft for the congregation to see as soon as they are ready, then the council will vote to approve them the following month.

Juliann reviewed committee reports and fielded questions. We agreed that the committee reports should be distributed to all the committee chairs. We also agreed that the council minutes should be sent to the committee chairs.

John reviewed financial reports, focusing on the YTD Comparison Worksheet. Average attendance is up 10% since last year (219 vs. 200), which is excellent.

- *A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial reports. Motion carried.*

Pastor Angela's report included meetings with new synod racial justice coordinator, attending LGBTQ Reconciling in Christ service, youth pancake breakfast with discussions about confirmation curriculum, and writing article for Living Lutheran. She is looking forward to ELCA Conference assembly, confirmands bowling event, and Lent. During Lent, Pastor Angela will lead book study about *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.

Pastor Ingrid's report included discussion of HTLC receiving the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Award, which was given to HTLC for social justice work demonstrated by Exodus Lending, Johnson Symposium, and other areas of congregational life. The three grants we received in 2018 are picking up steam now with significant activity. Pastor Ingrid testified for the statewide Religious Holiday Act, which would enable Minnesota schools to make religious accommodations for up to two days each year for particular religious holidays. These would be excused absences. Minneapolis schools already has a policy for this, but other areas of the state do not have this. The act is currently under examination in committee.

Both pastors declared their housing allowance for tax purposes:

- \$25,000 Pastor Angela
- \$37,000 Pastor Ingrid

The Personnel Committee discussed Meghan's resignation and is tasking a small working group (4 -5 people) with analysis of this position prior to taking steps to fill this position.

At last council meeting in January, we did not have enough funds to cover all wish list items from committees. Great news: there was a specific donation for \$10,000 to pay for the items that the council had already agreed we wanted to find funds for. The council expressed thanks for the generosity.

New Business

Synod Assembly attendance: May 3 - 4th in Ramsey, Minnesota. There will be 120 congregations represented. HTLC can bring four people to this assembly. Michael was interested in attending. If anyone else is interested, let Ingrid know.

Table discussion comments from annual meeting: we asked a sub-group of Angela, Juliann, and Kathy to review these and make any recommendations at next council meeting on which ones we may want to pursue.

Staff positions to fill: this council last saw drafts of three job descriptions for Vicki Mann's replacements, which have since been consolidated into two positions. Council reviewed the two job descriptions and asked some questions.

- *Motion was made and seconded to approve the two job descriptions—Communications and Congregational Coordinator and Financial Administrator—as written, with the expectation that a salary range would be added to each. Motion carried.*

Conclusion

Council members shared their perspectives on where they felt the Holy Spirit moving in our meeting tonight. Donna closed with another prayer.