

MINUTES FROM 116th ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 26, 2020

Ann Schrooten and David Sims led the congregation in singing “This Little Light of Mine.”

President Nicki Hines convened the meeting and read a prayer.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Donna Scott presented the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting, previously approved by the Church Council.

A motion was seconded to approve the minutes of our 2019 annual meeting. Motion carried.

Two items in the parish statistics were noted: a baptized membership increase from 1253 to 1278 in the past year; average Sunday worship attendance slightly down.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Nicki shared her history with Holy Trinity and some changes and major activities during the past year, including:

- Staff changes
- Creation of Community Engagement and Educational Coordinator position
- Trinity Apartments transaction

There are at least two major initiatives planned for 2020:

- Big Committee Meeting Nights – All committees will hold meetings on first Thursday or second Tuesday of the month. Pastors will give a 6:45 p.m. update, then the meetings will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Child care will be available. This new plan is to help committees communicate and collaborate, make them more accessible to all, and support pastors and staff by reducing the number of evening meetings they need to attend (currently attending up to 15/month).
- Improved Communication Initiative – There will be a new practice of publishing a binder with Council Minutes and other materials in the Community Room starting next week. Council meetings are open to all who are interested in listening in. The Church Council is the only exception to the Big Committee Meeting and still will meet third Monday of every month for the near term and will look to change to the third Tuesday of the month at a later date.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Angela's report highlighted our identity at HTLC as a family: "an imperfect, struggling, growing, amazing, powerful family of God." She was filled with gratitude and excitement for the work of this community in 2019 and what we can accomplish together in 2020.

LEAD PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Ingrid's report highlighted her work in 2019 on the Trinity Apartments transaction, including heartfelt thanks to all who assisted with this complex contract. She spoke with enthusiasm of our congregation's faithful and active support of Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (CTUL) during 2019, especially in agreeing to temporarily house an individual victimized by construction trafficking abuse. And she thanked all of the staff.

With joy, we celebrated Pastor Ingrid's announcement that she is pregnant and due in July!

CONGREGATIONAL GOALS

Juliann Breting Rohn introduced the 2019-2020 Congregational Goals and asked the attendees to discuss the following questions at their table:

- Where have you seen the goals taking shape in our congregational life?
- How might we deepen our commitments to these goals in the coming year?

Notes were made at each table and handed in to the Church Council for consideration.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Sulzbach presented the December 31, 2019 financial reports. The balance sheet shows a balance of over \$1M in the endowment fund, which means the interest generated from that fund can provide for the ministry of the church. We are so grateful to those who have remembered HTLC in their estate planning.

Opening Doors campaign has a net balance of \$246K. Pledges are still being fulfilled and Church Council will discuss and approve a plan soon to address that balance.

John discussed the need for an independent accounting report, which can take three different forms: Audit, Review, or Compilation. Holy Trinity has hired a new firm, Akins Henke, to do a Review of our finances for 2020.

Question: Why don't the Assets and Liabilities match up on the Balance Sheet? Answer: New accounting review company suggested that we do not need to show depreciation. We will provide more information about this after the independent review.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the December 31, 2019 balance sheet.
Motion carried.

The statement of receipts and expenditures shows that while we did not fulfill the budget, receipts exceeded expenses.

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

John presented the Special Funds information. He also covered the Endowment Funds.

A question was asked: What is the background of the African Pastors' Fund? Joel Wiberg answered by explaining our relationship with the LCT Northwest Diocese in Tanzania, and our desire to assist with pastors who choose to do ministry there. We send the interest to the diocese there who then distributes it to retired pastors or their widows. He explained that this is an ongoing fund.

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

ELECTION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Nicki Hines presented slate of candidates for 2020: Connie Adams, David Broberg, Scott Cole, and Aric Sorenson. She asked three times if there were additional nominations from the floor and there were none.

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

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

Welcome to the new council members!

ELECTION OF 2020 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Slate of candidates for this: Karen Kunze, Joel Wiberg, Johannes Arifin, Katelyn Holloway, Ben Martinez, Donna Scott, and Nicki Hines.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the candidates for the 2020 Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

PROPOSED BUDGET

John Sulzbach presented the 2020 budget. There is an increase in regular offerings based on pledge cards and the faithful gifts of all of the congregation. Thank you. Uncategorized revenue was discussed in detail. Synod support is based on 10% of regular, seasonal, special, and loose offerings.

Public Voice and Organizing Committee budget increase was discussed by Jennifer Frenzel. This committee provides the funding for all the working groups outlined in the bottom of page 14 in the report. They are requesting funds for training, workshops, events with partners such as CTUL, transportation, child care, etc. Request was made by a congregant to consider ISALAH as a partner in the future. Jennifer agreed that the committee would consider that request.

Questions:

Why are there increases in Financial Stewardship? Answer: This is due to our independent accounting review being done by the accounting firm Akins and Henke.

Why is there an increase in Church Council? Answer: This increase is due to the need of the Church Council to work with programs the congregation has identified as a priority, like diversity and racial relationships.

The Special Appeals for 2020 were proposed as:

1. ELCA World Hunger
2. Seminarian Support Fund
3. Wilderness Canoe Base

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2020 budget. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2020 special appeals. Motion carried

COMMITTEE GOALS AND TASKS FOR 2020

Nicki Hines directed the congregation to the committee goals as outlined in the packet. She introduced all members of the committees and thanked them for all of their ongoing work to lead HTLC activities.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Stepping Out in Faith Task Force was discussed with the goal of making recommendations to the congregation about how the Trinity Apartments funds could be allocated. She explained the process of forming the task force and asked that all those interested in becoming a part of this task force please submit their application by February 14th.
2. Refugee Resettlement Funds:

A motion was made and seconded to redesignate the Refugee Resettlement Funds under the wider category of the Intercultural Development Fund, with the understanding that the funds could be used to support refugee resettlement, should the need arise and funds are still available. Motion carried.

Other new business:

A request was made for more handicapped parking and redrawing the handicapped parking lines in the front parking area.

A request was made to consider more and/or remodeled bathrooms.

WORD OF THANKS

Nicki Hines shared words of thanks to the outgoing council members: Bryan Kunzel, Michael Douglas, John Sulzbach, Juliann Breting Rohn. She also thanked the pastors. The congregation thanked Nicki Hines, the Executive Committee, and the Council for their leadership, and Kathy Hollander and her team for their annual meeting preparation.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:55PM