

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2020

Present: Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen, Nicki Hines, Connie Adams, Tom Cahoy, Donna Scott, Scott Cole, Aric Sorenson, Ben Martinez, David Broberg, Kathy Ohler, Pastor Doug Mork, Steve Murray, Katelyn Hollaway

Absent: Amy Froiland-Parada

Devotions: Reflecting on the recent election, Ben Martinez shared some moving quotes from John Lewis:

- “The vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have.”
- “If you're not hopeful and optimistic, then you just give up. You have to take that long hard look and just believe that if you're consistent, you will succeed.”
- “We are one people... and we must find a way to lay down the burden of hate. For hate is too heavy a burden to bear.”

Council Member of the Month: Steve Murray shared that he grew up in Austin MN as one of six children, then moved to Lacrosse WI. He loved being part of a big family, so when he met his wife they decided to have a large family also “until they knew their family was complete.” They have five children. He went to U of MN, and spent time in Ohio, but he wanted to come back to Minnesota. He works at Macalester College, where he became “woke” after experiencing his own ignorance of growing up in a small town in MN. He grew up Catholic and his wife, Katie, was in an Air Force family, so when they were looking at churches, they tried conservative and very liberal and everything in between. John and Kay Buzza introduced them to HTLC and they love the mission and viewpoint that strongly matched their beliefs. They love the traditions, mission, and the work on issues. His most meaningful experience in his life has been the birth of every one of his children.

Motions:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the October Church Council minutes. Motion carried.

Administrative

- December Church Council Meeting is being rescheduled for December 17th, 2020.
- January Church Council Meeting is being rescheduled for January 19th, 2020.

Reports/Updates

David reviewed some key points from the committee reports, which were provided to all Council members before the meeting. Feedback on Big Meeting Nights was positive. Pastor Angela will be back on December 1st. There is a plan in case of potential neighborhood unrest in the future (for example, around timeframe associated with the trial in March of officers related to George Floyd murder).

Financial Reports:

Steve Murray provided comments on the reports. Budget comparison: regular offerings are exceeding budget, which is wonderful. We expect Use of Building to stay under budget due to rent forgiveness. Longfellow Rising fund will be tracked same as Exodus Spending account. Worship expenses were artificially high last month due to funds allocated in error that should have posted to another budget line. Overall, receipts vs. budget very positive.

New funds in donor restricted donations include: Duke Leadership Grant (Pastor Ingrid's funding for inclusive language in prayers of the day) will be used by June 2021, Augustana Asylum Seekers Grant (gift of reimbursement for an asylum family situation).

Motion

- *A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried.*

Pastor Ingrid's reflections:

- Carolyn Shurr's memorial service will be on Zoom online in cooperation with Community of St. Martin.
- Deacon David Rojas Martinez is moving toward Word and Sacrament Roster (ordained pastor roster) status in ELCA. We will host an internship for him that starts December 1 for three months.
- Longfellow Rising is moving forward. They are hiring team this week to help LR with the work. A city resolution is underway re: consent agenda and rebuilding of Longfellow.
- Advent boxes will be delivered this next week.
- Weekly Children Youth and Family videos being put online now in addition to other worship videos.
- Church office closed next week for Thanksgiving, but there will be coverage.
- Heartfelt thank you to Nicki Hines, Council President and Chair of the Stepping Out in Faith Task Force.

Pastor Doug's reflections:

- BDC executive work has been very busy in addition to Longfellow Rising.
- Before election, there was preparation for potential trouble around the election. Substantial synod group became emergency defense team. There were teams at three congregations ready to respond to crises situations and people at polling places.
- The march on last Saturday was scheduled not knowing who would win election to promote every vote counts. In general, Pastor Doug and BDC are thinking ahead about neighborhood, city and the church's role in the community.

Old Business

None

New Business

We discussed adopting a continuing resolution to allow for virtual meetings going forward. We need to add this capability to our Church Constitution in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 317A.450. We cannot hold virtual meeting unless explicitly stated in the church constitution.

Motion

Motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution for virtual meetings to comply with Minnesota Statutes Section 317A.450. Resolution: "This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. Notice of all meetings may be provided electronically."

2021 Personnel Committee

We discussed that the Personnel Committee is made up of three council presidents – former plus previous former + current AND Randy Nelson, Johannes Arifin, and Nancy Arnison.

Motion

Motion was made and seconded to ratify the 2021 Personnel Committee membership which will be Council Presidents (3 positions): Nicki Hines, Bryan Kuzel, President to be elected after Annual Congregational Meeting; Members at Large (3 positions): Randy Nelson, new members: Johannes Arifin and Nancy Arnison; Pastor Ingrid.

Stepping Out in Faith

Council had a discussion about the current status of the Stepping Out in Faith Task Force. There has been a significant effort to gain input from all church members, including 125 responses to survey and many focus groups. There are a lot of notes outlining this various congregational feedback, and the task force is trying to be true to what they are hearing and assure all voices are heard. At this point, the group has done info gathering, discernment, and is starting to bucket the various areas with some weighting. Nicki asked the church council: does this feel like right proportions/weightings?

Questions and Concerns from council members:

Is there a list of congregational priorities? Yes:

- All gender bathrooms
- Reimagining sanctuary space including stained glass windows
- Kitchen and gym renovation
- Renovate to facilitate more community welcome

What are we defining as partner organizations? Ongoing partners we have currently. The task force did a partnership assessment that will be provided.

By December 10th, the task force expects to have clearer sense of the direction forward.

New Doors

Door selection has been completed and there were variety of opinions between the Property Committee vs. Church Council opinions. The final selection was the wooden doors with largest windows! We are pleased to say that they may be able to install the doors by end of year.

Conclusion

Next meeting is December 17, 2020. Bring a child or pet or wear a hat.

Meeting adjourned 8:25 p.m.