

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 19, 2021**

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

**Devotions:** Scott Cole shared an excerpt from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer for the Church. "Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children – Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow - will rejoice in one common band of humanity."

**We state Black Lives Matter.**

**Council Member of the Month:** Nicki Hines has been a member of Holy Trinity since childhood. Her parents are Randy and Joy Nelson. She even met her husband at HT, and she has two children: Josie and Noah. Nicki suggested we pray for all the kids who are having to do distance learning which is very difficult. She loves everything about Holy Trinity, and she is grateful for the way we act as a community for one another. Some important times in her life: in her mid-20s, Nicki did bike ride for five days and learned to be ready for whatever is ahead of you. She has also travelled in South America, Ecuador, and many other places which has given her a perspective of appreciation for all different kinds of people in the world. We are so blessed to have had Nicki as our Council President and as a member of our community at HTLC!

**Motions:**

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

Reminders:

- Sunday please try to attend the 9:30 am Adult Forum to assist in answering any questions.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday 1/31 at Noon. All those continuing on the council need to stay after the annual meeting as well as Nicki and Donna who will need to attend to discuss the executive committee roles with the new council.

We need some help with participation on the Annual Meeting explaining each congregational objective for approximately one minute. Scott Cole, David Broberg, Amy Froiland-Parada, and Steve Murray agreed to help.

**Reports/Updates**

Committee reports: David Broberg reviewed and summarized the excellent work of the Stepping Out in Faith committee. We reviewed all committee reports and all council members agreed that there is an amazing amount of great work that this congregation is doing!

**Financial Reports:**

Steve Murray and Pastor Ingrid gave updates on how the Justice Fund and others are being handled in the balance sheet. In order to balance the budget, we moved about \$9000 from Roxanne Weeks Estate and this shows up under Uncategorized Revenue. Regular offerings have been below budget, but special gifts

are much higher, so the church financial health is strong. Use of Building will continue to be down due to COVID. If approved, the Stepping Out in Faith Campaign will mean that we will move funds from the fixed investment from TA sale to pay for initial investments that the campaign recommends.

A question was raised about why we are carrying the Building Plan negative on the books. This was due to the removal of fixed assets (building and equipment). Pastor Ingrid and Steve will discuss with the auditor.

### **Motion**

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

### **Pastor Angela**

- Trying to relearn how to use telephone to connect with people.
- Currently working on staff reviews for 2020.
- More involved with HTLC public voice i.e. Fare for All.
- Worship planning and observing other local church services to learn.
- Pastor Angela may be on Good Morning America again.
- Some beautiful flowers were delivered from an anonymous giver which she showed the council on video. Thank you very much!

### **Pastor Doug**

- His HTLC church work continues to be delightful.
- BDC work is ramping up with some exciting neighborhood work and national network involvement.

### **Pastor Ingrid's reflections:**

- We celebrated Christmas with a beautiful service filled with "the best of who we are."
- New Year's Eve: many Longfellow Rising folks celebrated together on Zoom. It was wonderful, with artists and poets imagining a new Longfellow community. They ended the evening with dancing to *Jerusalema*, a joyful celebration.
- She presided over marriage between Andrew Alness and Sarah Olson in a beautiful small service of 20 people.
- She presided over the burial for Linda Heining's brother at Hopkins cemetery with family Facetimed in.
- She is spending significant time investing in budget for 2021, closing 2020, and personnel reviews.
- Trinity Apartments renovations are complete! They are just doing punch list items now, so this is in final stages. Also, they finished on time which is great news, and we are delighted that the Section 8 Contract was renewed for 20 years of protected affordability!
- Pastor Ingrid recently got a call from MIT/Harvard regarding a peer to peer lending platform they have developed. They want HTLC to be a pilot implementation of peer-to-peer lending project. We will discuss more about this in future.
- Some personal reflections: Nicki Hines has been the Council President sent from God for the last two years. We have been through a tremendous amount in those 24 months, and "I don't know if we could have done what we've done without the faithfulness and dedication of Nicki Hines and all of you on the council." Many thanks.

- Pastor Ingrid answered question about the management of Longfellow Rising. It is currently being managed by a group of four consultants. They will meet with people in the community for input, then go through testing, then design phase. Ingrid will share the Longfellow Rising outline with the council.

### **Old Business**

Black Lives Matter flag update:

Pastor Ingrid discussed our decision about the previous sculpture recommendation with the generous church member who had offered it, and they were supportive. Pastor Doug called the flag company and had a site visit on the roof for planning. The council and the flag company agreed that the NW corner would be best place for flag. We now have a plan for how the flag will be installed, and we are awaiting bid in detail (approx. \$2500-5000). Council requested some information from flag company about how to assure the flag can be read and looks good. Ingrid will go to church member originally offering the sculpture first to see what she wants to contribute, then the rest will come from HTLC budget. Goal is to get this flag up asap.

### **Motion**

*Motion was made and seconded to approve Pastors moving forward with a Black Lives Matter flag for the roof spending up to \$5000 (including flag, flagpole, and installation). Motion carried.*

### **New Business**

2021 Budget was reviewed and discussed. The financial team made some fair and conservative estimates. Regular offerings were estimated based on pledges, and they generally look strong for 2021 giving.

- 116 households who pledged 2020 and 2021
- 32 households who did not pledge but did pledge 2021
- 15 households who we anticipate will pledge but haven't yet
- 60 Households who don't normally pledge

Questions were asked about PPE loan and how it is being handled in the budget as well as the Interest and Earnings rationale.

Comment from Steve: The budget includes some good financial "cleanup" and simplification of the previous budget versions. We had to make minor modifications to balance the budget, but nothing major. The budget proposes two scenarios depending on approval or not of the Stepping Out in Faith proposal.

### **Motion**

*Motion was made and seconded to approve the 2021 budget. Motion carried.*

### **Conclusion**

We discussed how we think the church is doing on the last two congregational goals:

### Nurturing faith through education and faith practices.

We agreed that the congregation's reaction to the COVID and George Floyd – “faith in practice” – was strong, and we reasserted that we believe in a god of abundance. “We pray with our feet.”

There were sweet notes from children of the congregation to Kay Buzza, which emphasizes the strong need for continuity and connection to the church community. We discussed that families are struggling right now, and they need the community of HTLC for support. We will continue to focus on this area.

### Enhance communication strategy.

How did we do? We launched Big Meeting night, which helped a lot with communications across the committees. Examples of our broader communication include Ingrid getting call from MIT, Angela on Good Morning America. We are communicating nationwide, with international platforms included! With the Racial Justice group, there was a deliberate effort to collaborate with other committees for overlap. In addition, the church moving our services online, Community Church to email, and the Advent boxes were all examples of enhanced communications! Website member only section is very helpful. We increased on Social Media significantly and now have over 4000 followers on Facebook, indicating a stronger neighborhood communication. For example, we got another new member (the second one) recently who has never set foot in building!

One council member noted: “Our silo got blown up.” We agreed that we cannot go back to it anymore.

### Gratitude

Nicki thanked everyone for their work and service. We have learned from our bold and courageous pastors – thank you. Black Lives Matter. Voices matter. There is enough for all. We are stronger together. We have learned that “the church is not a building, but a spirit and a people proclaiming and working for justice.” It's an important time to be in leadership at this wonderful place of faith. Let's all carry into future what we have learned here.

Thank you for Kaitlyn, Ben, and Donna, who are leaving the council. They each thanked the council as well and offered some parting words.

Nicki ended in meaningful prayer:

God, give us strength for the journey ahead. Grant wisdom and discernment to the members of HT and especially the council and other leaders over these next months. We rejoice that there will be new leadership for our country, but keep us energized and working for change, until “justice rolls down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.” Amen.

Meeting adjourned 8:53 p.m.