

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
15 February 2021

Present: Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen, Pastor Angela Khabeb, Pastor Mork, Steve Murray, David Broberg, Scott Cole, Connie Adams, Allison Johnson-Heist, Amy Froiland-Parada, Aric Sorenson, Erin Henry, Gretchen Lund, Kathy Ohler, Mike Nevergall, Tom Cahoy

Absent:

Steve read aloud the congregational goals to remind us to center our work with the goals in mind.
 We continue to say aloud: Black Lives Matter

1. Devotions

David Broberg provided devotions. Reading from Krista Tippett's "Speaking of Faith -Why Religion Matters and How to Talk About It" and a poem from "Rilke's Book of Hours: Love Poems to God" by Rainer Maria Rilke, and closing with a prayer.

2. Council Member of the Month – Mike Nevergall

Rachel, Mike and their 3 children settled in the Nokomis East neighborhood after moving to Minneapolis in 2017 with no prior connections to Minnesota. They have lived in Kansas, Ohio, Chicago, and Texas before settling here. After college, Mike first worked in disaster response for ELCA, being hired right before Hurricane Katrina. Now he is in development with Gustavus Adolphus. Mike is an avid reader, primarily non-fiction, enjoys visiting breweries, not just local ones. Also, an avid cyclist and cross-country skier. Faith journey – Mike is a Pastor's Kid and found college and working as a church camp counselor in Ohio to be influential in his faith growth. He now finds his call in non-for-profit work, which was not his initial plan.

3. Review of Meeting Minutes – distributed for review with meeting agenda.

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 19th Church Council minutes.
 Motion carried.*

4. Reports/Updates

- Council President

- Council Handbook – Steve highlighted the mission leadership and administrative structure of the council as outlined in the handbook, the Council and Committee responsibilities, council meeting expectations. The Council provides support to the pastors and staff and church council representation at church activities is encouraged.
 - Executive Committee noted that the handbook needs to be updated relating to recent changes to Committee structure.
- Recommendation to include the "parking lot" concept to manage introduction of topics during meeting discussions. Suggestion to use Zoom-chat to document ideas.
- COVID-19 Response Team is beginning to investigate options for the congregation meeting together again this summer.

- Committees' Reports – D. Broberg presented highlights of committee reports, including.
 - o Financial Stewardship Committee - as Steve Murray is Council President for 2021, Drew Lindorfer is considering replacing Steve as Committee Chair effective in March. The Committee is looking for additional members.
- Financial Report – Scott Cole and Pr. Ingrid presented a brief Finance 101 explaining the documents that are presented each month: Revenue & Expenses, Statement of Financial Position, YTD Comparison Worksheet
 - Loose Offerings are based off on expectation of being in person the second half of the year. They will remain at zero until we are back in person. The budget is evenly distributed over the 12 months.
 - Regular Offerings were higher than what was budgeted for the month. We expect this number will go down due to some individuals paying ahead.
 - Uncategorized revenue is budgeted equally over the 12 months. Actual revenue received will not be distributed evenly and primarily depends on forgiveness of PPP Loan.
 - Interest and earnings and Administrative Fees had not been received yet when this report was run
 - Questions was asked about Misc I/O account with a balance of \$40,433.02 in the dedicated account. Ingrid will look into where the existing funds come from. This is a pass- through account.
- - Noted that the 4yr. terms fixed investment 0819 had been pulled out with \$810,000 of it going to the 8 organizations defined in the stepping out in faith document. The remaining funds from that investment went into the ELCA Endowment Fund

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

- Pastors' Reports
 - o **Mork** – Energy around neighborhood rebuild continues to pick up. Imagining ways to continue to bring energy, newness and meaning to our church community.
 - o **Khabeb** – Agreed with Pr. Doug, amazed that Lent is here. Commendations to the Annual Meeting team for an outstanding meeting held on Zoom. Participated in youth extravaganza. Participating in several community initiatives in conjunction with the Public Voice Committee: e.g. ACTION (A Commitment to Inclusion in Our Neighborhoods) and well Synod committees.
 - o **Rasmussen** – So. Mpls Conference Assembly: HTLC, together with Edina Community Church - drafted a resolution against the Line 3 Pipeline which passed. Longfellow Rising: after defining the scope of work, now moving into listening to our neighbors, (Trinity Apts, queer community, City Council Members, BIPOC community, Mayor's office and staff reps, youth, Somali residents). Expect ashes in the mail this week from HTLC to mark Ash Wednesday. Conversations about the 'Our Shared Home' portion of the SOIF are beginning. Expansive language liturgy moving forward. Presented at Bethlehem Lutheran Women's Day of Service. Writing a chapter for an upcoming book: Parenting and Social Action. Covid continues to frame every day – feeling we are moving into an acute fragility phase – we need to be gentle with ourselves.
5. **Old Business**
- Reviewed minutes from the HTLC 117th annual congregational meeting held on January 31, 2021.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 31st Annual Meeting. Minutes were approved.

- Review of annual meeting break-out room notes and congregational goals: A subcommittee will be formed to review our congregational goals and to find themes in the notes from breakout sessions during the annual meeting to determine if adjustments need to be made to our congregational goals.
 - o Gretchen, Amy and Connie volunteered to be on the subcommittee.
 - o Steve will share the breakout session notes with the subcommittee.
- New church doors have been ordered.
- BLM Flag Update: Pr. Doug – Council previously approved the installation of a Black Lives Matter flag on the building. Bid and specs received. Need to finalize flag design.

6. **New Business**

- Addendum: Updated statement on guidelines for size and types of gatherings due to Covid-19 communicated in newsletter.
- Baptismal font proposal: We have received the proposal for the baptismal font with 3 options of the same design but using different materials.
 - o Question raised about saving the dedication or dedicating the new font to another young one. Due to condition of existing font, committee is moving toward retiring the piece.
 - o Discussion: Committee is requesting Council's recommendations for level of funding and preferences/feedback regarding materials. Comments: Consideration that a baptismal font will be used for decades; mobility of unit must be reasonable and safe for staff to manage.

Motion was made and seconded for the council to recommend that the Worship and Finance Committee move forward with the design proposal for the highest level of funding (bronze) base; and request the final full proposal be presented to the council, including full specification details with weight and movement mechanism, and price of the completed base and glass basin.

The motion carried.

- Racial Justice Plan: Teresa Butel of the congregational equity team provided an overview of the racial justice action plan they are creating. They will be presenting this plan to church council during the March meeting. Please review in preparation for next month's presentation-
- Synod assembly attendance: We have an opportunity for a member of council to attend the Synod Assembly. April 23 -24 expected to be online - Friday evening and Saturday morning. Notify Steve by email within 2 weeks if interested.

Closing Topic Much talk this year has been about raising awareness around racial justice issues – Steve challenged us to bring forward what needs to be celebrated about the African American community.

Conclusion: Next meeting is 15 March 2021. We will have the church reopening discussion as planned, Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.