

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Draft November 20, 2018**

Members present: Guy Aki, Paula Anderson, Rob Anderson, Rachel Carlson, Phil Deimel, Jill Eisfelder, Terry Hogenson, Ken Kramer, Pastor Terry Nordheim, Gary Peterson, Ross Peterson, Karin Vukich, Carol Wolsky

Members absent: None

Visitors: Ron Holt, Diane John, Alan Blegen, Nancy Johnson, Jim Mielke, Jolene Willie, Katie Roche, Jim Jordal, Kim Anderson, Bonnie Houger

- Carol Wolsky, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- Devotions by Rachel Carlson
- Guy Aki moved to approve agenda.  
Second by Ross Peterson.  
**Motion carried**
- Terry Hogenson moved to approve the October Church Council minutes.  
Second by Rachel.  
**Motion carried**

*Visit by Jim Mielke of Luther Bible Point Camp*

Jim Mielke thanked Trinity for its continuing support of Luther Point Bible Camp, acknowledging that Trinity has given 30% above its assessment. Luther Point has had a new Executive Director for the past two years: Sam Campeau. Changes to the camp physical area include

1. a crew from one of the congregations has reroofed a cabin;
2. the dining area has a new floor;
3. the outside of the chapel has been painted;
4. there is a new walk-in freezer.

Luther point has hired a new program director and is looking to improve partnership with congregations. Use of the retreat center is increasing for confirmation retreats, quilting, advent workshops, and youth worker retreats. Trinity has used the center for its Church Council retreats. Luther point is working to get more children to attend camp. A Luther Point brochure was distributed to the council.

*Senior pastor report*

A meeting with the five area churches, known collectively as Mi Chi Lu, is scheduled for December 1. The next group meeting is a *Fat Tuesday* Mardi Gras celebration event at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Almelund. A coordinated Vacation Bible School program is being considered.

Coffee conversations with Pastor Terry have been done on Fridays from 9:00 to 10:30. They will start again after the first of the new year.

Plans for recognition of Pastor Brad's retirement and his work and ministry are being made.

*Path to Home* guests will be with us from December 2-9.

Dave Heldt will take vacation 15-26<sup>th</sup> of December. Dean Rambow will assume Dave's responsibilities in his absence. Bonnie Houger will be out from the 28<sup>th</sup> of December until March.

Amber VanHorn is out of the office January 3-10. Pastor Terry will take vacation from December 26 through January 3.

*Guatemala trip presentation by Katie Roche*

Katie Roche reported on, and showed photographs from, the recent Guatemala mission trip. The team visited Good Shepherd church which has 24 very active families. Pastor Terry officiated at five baptisms and four first communions. Sunday worship was two hours (it usually goes longer, but was cut back for the visitor's sake)

One project in this community is construction of high efficiency stoves to reduce wood consumption and the labor required to supply wood to the stoves. The stoves also vent smoke to the outside, which prevents smoke inhalation. This helps reduce respiratory illness.

Ministries of Good Shepherd church include:

1. council meetings;
2. a construction committee which is always thinking about ways to improve their space and worship;
3. a music ministry;
4. a youth ministry;
5. a women's ministry that focuses on health and gardening;
6. a health promotion committee that goes to Guatemala City for training every six months.

A partnership between Trinity Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd church is being sought. This is a three year commitment that involves a contribution from Trinity of \$1,000 per year to the Lutheran Agustinian Church of Guatemala (ILAG) and the Good Shepherd congregation, prayer for each other every week in worship, and a commitment to visit them at least once every 18 months. This visit is a reminder that we have not forgotten them. This is a partnership where we walk beside them in ministry. It is an opportunity for a 100 year church to work with a less-than-three-year congregation.

A question was raised about whether Church Council voted on this a year ago? It was proposed that we table the discussion to December to allow time to identify where the money would come from, and determine what we voted on before so we do not contradict a previous vote. A decision is planned for the next Church Council meeting.

*Treasurer's report*

Actual income for October was \$50,280, which includes \$15,000 from the Pearl Nelson annuity.

Budgeted income was \$46,197.

Year-to-date actual income is \$433,162. Year-to-date budgeted income is \$471,373.

Actual expenses for October were: \$41,223. Budgeted expenses were \$49,761.

Year-to-date actual expenses are \$461,485. Year-to-date budgeted expenses are \$477,322.

We ran a \$9,057 surplus for the month of October (because of the \$15,000 transfer from the Pearl Nelson annuity), and are running a year-to-date deficit of \$28,323.

Trinity has \$28,000 in operating cash.

Rental house and demolition funds now total \$17,000.

The Pearl Nelson annuity stands at \$69,000.

The Pearl and Elmer Nelson bequest has \$780,000.

The current church van balance is \$5,241.

86 pledges cards have been returned so far, totaling \$208,295.

The planned budget right now is \$508,000. Extrapolating from last year, we expect to be about \$60,000 short. It is understood that we need multi-year plan to increase giving to Trinity.

Recent unbudgeted expenses include flowers for the funeral of Linda Rambow's mom, and furnace repair (a motor was replaced). Total cost is around \$1,100.

- Phil Deimel moved that we take \$1,100 from the undesignated memorial fund to cover these expenses.

Second by Ross Peterson

**Motion carried**

The synod has informed us that we have not filled our 2019 mission support form.

- Phil Deimel moved that we leave our benevolence as it is at \$32,000 (same as last year, no increase or decrease).

Second by Jill Eisfelder.

**Motion carried**

At this time the budget plan does not include an associate pastor salary for next year. Discussion about whether and how to fill the associate pastor position will take place during the December Church Council meeting. These discussions will review the existing responsibilities, and we need to understand the current Senior Pastor's boundaries. Council may consider using lay leaders or retired pastors. We may also consider a part-time interim assistant. Council recognizes a need to obtain input from the congregation on this matter. We need a plan so that the Finance Committee can present a balanced budget to the congregation in February. However, we may go into February with no position, and then do a budget amendment if Trinity decides to call an associate pastor.

#### *Business*

##### Church Council minutes

- Carol Wolsky moved that we publish the full draft meeting minutes as in insert in the Chimes from this time forward.

Second by Terry Hogenson.

**Motion carried**

##### Short items

David Johnson requests Council assistance with contacting people to turn in their pledge card. Council is agreeable to this.

Christmas staff and council party discussed, including signup.

Cheryll Benson has asked to be taken off the membership role as her family has moved and transferred to another church.

Responsibilities for church officers was discussed. Election of officers is done in January. Those not on the Executive Committee are assigned to represent a church committee.

Everyone on a committee has to put together an annual report. It is suggested that these reports are 50% summary of past, 30% thank you to people, and 20% goal and vision for next year.

Pastor Terry presented *Keys to being a good council member*

Rob Anderson will finish his term with Council at the end of this year.

##### Liability waiver and gift policy

A draft of the gift policy was discussed. Suggested revisions included

1. Restricted gifts are to be approved by Council.
2. Non-cash gifts are to be the responsibility of the Church Council to review and approve.
3. We will add congregational approval for liquidation of real estate.
4. All questions regarding the gift policy should go to the Council.
5. All restrictions to real estate must be reflected on the deed.

- Rachel moved that we accept the gift policy with the proposed revisions.

Second by Phil Deimel.

**Motion carried**

Council has looked at *Form Swift*, a web service that provides legal forms and documents, as a place to obtain liability release forms for outside people or organizations who use Trinity's facilities.

- Rachel moved that we approve \$16 for purchase of subscription to *Form Swift*

Second by Jill Eisfelder.

**Motion carried**

#### Second Sunday offering

In keeping with Trinity's process for second Sunday offerings, Karin Vukich on behalf of the Witness and Outreach Committee presented selections for the second Sunday offering:

January: Lutheran World Relief (with a California wildfire designation)

February: Family Pathways Food Shelf

March: Feed my Starving Children mobile pack at Hosanna Lutheran

April: Changing Gaits at Wild River

May: Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

June: Let's Go Fishing program

- Karin Vukich moved that we accept the above designations for the second Sunday offering.

Second by Jill Eisfelder.

**Motion carried**

#### Rental house

Funds sufficient for the demolition have been donated. The rental house has been removed. The foundation will be gone tomorrow, and then the area will be filled in. Sewer is to be capped. Trinity to file by January 2 for the rental house property to be combined with Trinity's existing property, and thereby become tax exempt.

Fund raising for green space has begun. A Chili Cookoff is scheduled for this Sunday. Karin to send an email requesting Council members to provide extras.

#### Outside consultant

The Executive Committee felt a need for an outside consultant to help with solving some of the issues are encountering at Trinity. The Bishop agreed this might be best and has provided contacts for us to consider. One interview has already taken place. Another is scheduled for this coming week. Both consultants can begin as early as December. Discussions of how to cover the cost of the consultant are coming.

- Motion by Phil Deimel to adjourn.

Second by Jill Eisfelder.

**Motion carried**

*Submitted by Gary L. Peterson (Secretary)*