

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
October 16, 2018

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

Members absent: Rob Anderson, Jill Eisfelder,

Visitors: Ron Holt, Jim Jordal

· Carol Wolsky, President, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Introduction of confirmation students

· Devotions by Terry Hogenson

Visit by Bishop Lull

Bishop Lull thanked Trinity for its support of global mission, young adult ministries, seminaries, outreach, and the starting of new congregations. Bishop Lull's visit is one of 30 visits to congregational church councils that are done each year by Synod Council.

Bishop Lull asked the council where Trinity Lutheran Church has seen God at work in the past year? Answers included

- Trinity's participation in the *Path to Home* shelter work,
- the work of *Spit and Shine* in church and community,
- the recent *Mission Festival* where joy and energy in peoples faces was seen as they discovered where they were needed and set about doing the work,
- the warm welcome one member received when he and his wife visited and joined Trinity,
- thanks for work in guiding and supporting youth.

The Bishop shared a brochure that described young adult ministries to University of Minnesota students on the East Bank campus near their first year residence. She also shared an *Intent* form for ELCA support for 2019.

Question: what is relationship between the synod and congregations? Answer: there are three general expressions of ministry within the ELCA: congregation, synod, and the churchwide office. These expression are not one above another, but rather are three ministries that function together within the ELCA. It is more of a *spinning plate* model than a hierarchy. There are 9000 congregations of the ELCA, and 112 in the St. Paul Area synod.

Question: when is a good time to reach out to the synod? Answer: the synod assists congregations with the call process, workshops for Council presidents and treasurers, and assistance with outreach. The synod can help with legal questions, and the bishop can help congregations determine what type of legal representation may be needed. The synod provides assistance with crisis, and help when it is not clear where else to turn.

Agenda and approval of September minutes

Additions to the agenda:

Service committee report
Fund raising for the rental house
Decision about Portico
Hurricane Michael Lutheran Response and Relief
Request from Luther Point Bible Camp

- Ross Peterson moved to approve the agenda

Second by Rachel

Motion carried

- Ken Kramer moved to approve the September Church Council minutes

Second by Terry Hogenson

Motion carried

Senior pastor report

Pastor Terry will attend the Boundaries workshop on November 1. Attendance is required every three years.

Report on the recent fall Ministerium gathering: The president of Lutheran World Federation spoke. The Federation encompasses 148 member churches from 99 countries, 75 million members worldwide, and 100 staff. The largest member church is Ethiopia, and then Tanzania, and then Sweden. A theme of the recent gathering was the following: *Creation is not for sale. Human beings are not for sale. Salvation is not for sale.*

The new Trinity website is now mostly up and running. Church email is down but work on this is ongoing.

Two coffee conversations with Pastor Terry on Friday's from 9:00-10:00 have been attended by 6 and 11. Conversations to be resumed when Pastor returns.

Pastor Terry and the Executive Committee have been in conversation with Bishop Lull about bringing in a church consultant. Four consultants are being considered. The consultant would assist the Trinity leadership and congregation with communication, leadership and team building, and management of conflict. There is a fee for this work, and there will be a line item in the budget for this.

Pastor Terry will be on a Guatemala mission trip for ten days. This trip will include a women's conference in which Pastor Terry and Cathy Nordheim will lead three sessions, gardening and crop rotation conversations, and health care presentations. There will be a trip to the Northern part of the country to tour cultural artifacts. The visit Antigua is cancelled due to an active volcano.

Pastor Brad to take vacation November 3-9.

Pastor Terry to take vacation December 28 through January 3.

Bonnie Houger to take vacation from December 28 through March 2019.

No new member group this fall.

The five area churches participating in shared ministry met on Sept 30. New events and ideas for gatherings are coming up. The next meeting is November 6.

Treasurer's report

Actual income for September was \$44,003. Budgeted income was \$46,197.
Year-to-date actual income is \$382,882. Year-to-date budgeted income is \$425,176.

Actual expenses for September were: \$47,100. Budgeted expenses were \$46,787.
Year-to-date actual expenses are \$420,262. Year-to-date budgeted expenses are \$427,562.

We ran a \$3,096 deficit for the month of September, and are running a year-to-date deficit of \$37,380.

Line of credit debt for the van of \$9,300 has been reduced to \$5,700.

Checking account balance stands at \$3,500.
Rental house checking stands at \$11,527.
Undesignated memorial balance is \$7,800.
The Pearl Nelson Annuity is \$84,000.
The Pearl and Elmer Nelson bequest is \$784,000.

· On behalf of the finance committee, Phil Deimel moved to transfer \$15,000 from the Pearl Nelson Annuity to the Trinity checking account.
Second by Ken Kramer

Motion carried

A quotation from for insurance from Church Mutual has been received. It offers better coverage at a lower price. A choice of Portico option for staff insurance coverage must be made by October 26. The Portico Gold option is to be continued.

Budget requests from committees are requested by November 6. Commitment Sunday is November 11.

Business

Rental house demolition

Rental house checking account balance is \$11,527
Bid for hazardous waste removal \$7,550
After hazardous waste removal Demolition cost is \$9,100
Property tax payment is \$956.

\$6,079 is still needed to complete demolition of the rental house. \$300 has been raised so far.

Hazardous waste removal (asbestos in floor tile and insulation) will go forward. It will start a week from Monday.

Fund raising efforts will be started to cover demolition costs. The ballot states that Trinity cannot use an annuity, budget, or bequest. A letter will be sent to the congregation informing them that we need funds to cover demolition, that there are charges for asbestos removal, and that the house will remain standing until funds are raised. Rachel to draft the letter. Next year's property taxes are \$2,000 if the house is not removed before the end of the year. Information is also to be provided in the bulletin. Karin and Jill will work on fund raising plans.

Insurance

Meetings were held with Church Mutual and the Empire Insurance Group (our Guide One insurance provider). A lack of flexibility and restrictions from Guide One were discussed with Empire. No-one within the Empire Group wanted to quote on new policy because of our church activities, so a renewal of the existing Guide One policy was presented to Trinity. Guide One renewal premium is up \$300, to \$17,000.

Phil Deimel recommended that we go with Church Mutual for 2019

- Rachel moved to change Trinity's insurance provider to Church Mutual insurance for 2019, increase the deductible to \$2,500, and inquire about dropping everything except liability coverage on the rental house or ask them to reduce the appraised value.

Second by Karin

Motion carried

Liability waiver

A liability waiver form for church groups that go out in the community to do work was discussed. It was noted that *Spit and Shine* is part of the property committee. *Form Swift*, a web site that sells liability forms, could be used by Trinity.

Gift policy

A draft for a Church Gift Acceptance Policy was reviewed. The policy promotes stewardship and lays out general principles and specific policies. Council members to read the draft and comment at the November meeting. The Finance and Endowment committees are also to review and comment. A process for filing and retaining the records must also be developed.

Boy Scouts

Tom Highland with BSA Troop #9159 spoke to the council. Scouts BSA is expanding to include girls. At this time individual troops are allowed to decide whether they want to include girls (*family scouting*). Troop #9159, which meets at Trinity, needs to decide together on a direction. It is noted that Girl Scouts are strongly opposed to this. A local Cub Scout pack is currently boys only (70 boys), and made this decision last year. Tom reported on a poll that was taken online (anonymous). There were 19 responses (there are 20 boys active in the troop, and 8 part time). 4 of 19 want to include girls. 15 out of 19 want boys only. Troop wants to remain a boys-only troop at this time. It is noted that the program to include girls is new and that facilities are not yet ready.

Question: how do girls benefit? Answer: the intent is that an entire family can participate together. BSA started with cub scouts. 2/3 are mixed, 1/3 are not. Ours has not (70 boys). Girls would be allowed to attain the rank of eagle scout. One advantage of remaining separate is that behavior of boys and girls is different when they meet separately.

One council member expressed opposition to having only boys allowed in boy scouts.

Trinity is a charter organization for the troop. The troop leadership, which includes several women, is open, but troop participants are resisting. A decision from Church Council is needed in October. The decision can be revisited in the future.

- Guy Aki moved that Troop #9159 remain a boys only troop with our chartered partner and revisit this in the Fall of 2019
Second by Terry Hogenson
Motion carried with one opposed

Christmas party

Christmas party is December 11 for Council members and newly elected Council members.

Stewardship

The planned date for commitment is November 11. Gratitude Sunday is November 18, and this will include a Sunday brunch. A video of different folk sharing the story of gratitude and generosity in their lives will be presented.

Service committee report

Sunday morning coffee host guidelines, including preparation and cleanup, have been put together and simplified. A list was made on how to order and purchases products. It is thought that a chalk board may be used to write down what supplies are needed as they are consumed. The Property Committee is to be consulted. The kitchen was cleaned on September 11. A deep cleaning of the kitchen is being contemplated.

Hurricane Michael

Possible ways that Trinity might support recovery from Hurricane Michael were discussed. It is thought that we might consider an immediate offering followed by a second Sunday offering next year.

- Ross Peterson moved that we insert a Lutheran Disaster Response form for Hurricane Michael into this Sunday's bulletin.
Second by Paula Anderson
Motion carried

Luther point

Luther Point camp wants to come to a Council meeting to make a presentation about Luther Point. Council suggests that we invite them to come in November.

- Motion by Ross Peterson to adjourn
Second by Gary Peterson
Motion carried

Submitted by Gary L. Peterson (Secretary)