

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

June 19, 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

- Carol Wolsky, President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.
- Devotions - Ross Peterson
- Proposed additions to the agenda: Two items from Witness and Outreach
An item from the Safety Committee
- Phil Deimel moved to approve the agenda
Second by Jill Eisfelder
Motion carried
- Ken Kramer moved to approve the May Council minutes
Second by Ross Peterson
Motion carried

Senior pastor report

The church office is now under summer office hours, which are 9:00 to 4:00 Monday-Friday.

An offer letter has been sent to and accepted by Frederick (Derick) Kurpiel for the Multimedia Worship Resource position.

Pastor has attend a workshop on *Rethinking Stewardship*, continues to take turns with other pastors speaking at Parmly chapel, and is participating in a shared ministry group with the pastors of churches in our area.

The subscription to Webaloo for web development and email has been examined. It is being dropped to move to a Google application.

Day camp is being wrapped up.

The first stewardship committee meeting is Wednesday evening (June 20).

The first meeting on the Guatemala mission trip has been held. The trip is currently scheduled for October 18-28.

The dates for staff vacations this summer were reviewed.

Pastor is currently involved in conversations with two sets of parents regarding baptism. We may or may not have a first communion class this year. Three weddings are currently being contemplated.

Financial report

May was not a good financial month for Trinity. Envelope pledges were \$4,000 below plan, but we are still \$4,300 ahead of plan for the year. Total income for May was \$12,000 below budget, and we are \$26,000 below plan for the year, mostly in our unpledged offering (which is always just an estimated number). This shortfall is partly due to our not having transferred any of the \$50,422 that has been budgeted from the Pearl Nelson annuity.

Total expenses are \$850 below budget in May. We had no unusual expenses. Year to date our expenses are running \$5,000 over budget.

The loan on the church van is now down to \$11,215.

Cash balances are now below \$50,000. We need to transfer \$10,000 from the Pearl Nelson annuity, and give Twyla the action to do this.

The undesignated fund is now down to \$6,800. The Pearl Nelson annuity is at \$94,000. The Pearl and Elmer Nelson bequest is at \$785,000.

Trinity is not keeping up with its expenses, which is an issue that is going to be coming up for both stewardship and finances.

Twyla keeps a spreadsheet that tracks money from the endowment fund that is currently in dedicated accounts, where it is waiting to be spent. Finance recommends that the endowment fund take any unspent money back.

Question from Ross: With regard to first-half taxes for the rental house, is the house regarded as a commercial property? Have the property taxes been paid? This is a question for Twyla. Taxes on the house are to be paid from checking account for the rental house, which currently has a balance of \$13,000.

Rental house

Among those who filled out the survey regarding what to do with the rental house (the survey was passed out during the recent rental-house discussion between services), the largest share (but less than half) of responders wanted to demolish it. The next largest response was to sell the house, followed by *undecided*.

Discussed three options for the rental house:

1. sell the house

2. demolish the house;
3. repair the house and rent it.

Phil Deimel presented a year-by-year summary of costs and income associated with each option.

A draft ballot for the July vote on the rental house was passed out. All votes must be cast at the July meeting, as Trinity's constitution does not allow for an absentee ballot.

The *green space* option was discussed. Pastor Terry presented a list of possible uses for the vacant lot that would be created if the house were removed.

Capital improvement plan

Ross pointed out that the capital improvement plan needs to be connected to Vision 2020, and Council is generally agreeable with this.

The focus of discussion centered on a Capital Improvement Task Force Description. This group would identify the critical elements to be addressed, and estimate cost of repairs and replacement. They would also identify lifespan and where we are at in that lifespan. Ross noted, and Council agrees, that we should use the Vision 2020 and architectural study as a starting point for this task force. This study included an addition to the church. Consensus is that we do not want to include capital expansions as part of the capital improvement plan. Consensus is that we want five people on the task force.

Thoughts on the makeup of this committee include:

- no experience required.
- no age limit.
- men and women are both welcome
- should be able to type up some notes, but can get some clerical assistance from Amber
- no contractor experience needed.
- no particular expertise is needed.

Council wants the task force in place around or before the end of July. Toward this end, a request for volunteers should be made in the bulletin and as part of the Sunday announcements or a temple talk. Council members may also forward a request for volunteers to their committees.

Interested members should identify their interest to Amber or anyone on Council.

- Ross Peterson moved that Council authorize the formation of a Capital Improvement Task Force by the end of July, composed of five people who will gather to create a critical component list.
Second by Jill.
Motion carried.

Other business

Stewardship update. The Stewardship Committee has the first meeting tomorrow night (June 20).

Laundry room proposal.. A suggestion was forwarded to Council after the last Path to Home event that it would be useful to add a laundry room and shower. This might go into the existing janitor closet. Council consensus is that this suggestion should be tabled at present, but that it should be added to the capital improvement discussions.

Witness and outreach:

1. The *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon* community is looking for Trinity to participate in this work. *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon* is a program to assist veterans in areas where they are not covered by existing support. It is currently building a network and support community. Trinity may begin by finding out who are the veterans in our congregation.

2. Lakes and Pines, a community assistance council would like to use Trinity's facility after a meeting on June 28. This is a group of people that regularly uses the church. They are meeting with Bonnie to discuss using the church again twice a month, where they will serve lunch and do activities. They are filling out a facility use form.

Safety Committee: The committee met on June 3. Fire extinguisher cabinets are \$1,250. Endowment gave \$1,000 toward these cabinets. \$250 more is needed.

- Phil Deimel moved to take the \$250 needed for fire extinguisher cabinet installation, as requested by the Safety Committee, from the undesignated account.
Second by Ken Kramer.

Motion carried

Next council meeting date is moved to July 10.

Alan Blegen, a member of Trinity, has been studying for the diaconate and has been approved. Saturday, August 11 at 10:00 AM is being considered for his consecration by the Bishop Lull. It is suggested that cake and coffee may be served at a reception afterwards, with the money to come from the undesignated account.

- Jill Eisfelder moved to adjourn
Second by Rachel Carlson

Motion carried.

Submitted by Gary L. Peterson (Secretary)