

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 19, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachel Carlson, Coleen Guilfoile, Terry Hogenson, Diane John, Cathy Johnson, David Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Craig Martin, Leroy Mitchell, Pastor Terry Nordheim, Katie Roche, Nicole Smith, Jolene Wille

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pastor Karri Anderson, Kim Anderson, Jim Jordal

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:04 by David Johnson, President
2. DEVOTIONS: Nicole Smith
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: MM by Diane John to approve the May agenda, MS by Nancy Johnson, MP.
4. APPROVAL OF APRIL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: MM by Terry Hogenson to approve the April council meeting minutes, MS by Katie Roche, MP.

5. SENIOR PASTOR REPORT/STAFF ACTIVITIES, etc.: Pastor Terry said Avery is planning to present a one-week virtual day camp during the week of June 8-12, 2020. All summer camps have been cancelled. The organ repairs have been finished except for tuning. The organ will be tuned when the AC. has been on for two weeks which will help with humidity. The organ repairs are expensive, and the current repairs will not last as long as originally thought. The organ is about twenty-five years old. In fifteen years, the organ will go through a total tear down and repairs at an estimate of \$70,000-90,000. Pastor Terry said there can be an endowment fund created through the ELCA for future organ repairs. The elevator repair work will begin in early June.

Worship service, Friday Thoughts, and the weekly newsletter will continue online. The church building will be closed through the end of the month, and if you come in, you must wear a mask, be in a group no larger than ten, and observe appropriate social distancing. Pastor Terry said he has conducted funeral services at Ft. Snelling and graveside in Lindstrom.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- a. Monthly Update--Diane John said the church is doing well financially. Income has been higher than expenses, in part due to the church closure during the pandemic.
- b. Finance Committee Report--the YTD Income Budget is \$184,088, the YTD Expenses Budget is \$181,020. The YTD Actual Income is \$198,358, the YTD Actual Expenses are \$169,977. That leaves a YTD balance of \$28,381.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Status Report on Building Opening, etc.--churches are among the last entities to open unless groups of ten or less meet and conform to social distancing. Pastor Terry will meet with area churches to discuss shared reopening dates so there will be consistency in opening procedures.

b. Status on Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Grant--Diane said our application has been approved, and the funds for Trinity payroll plus some for utilities are in the bank. She has tried to find out how to be in compliance within the PPP. Security State Bank does not have that information yet, but the SBA will have the criteria available within the next six to eight weeks.

c. Endowment Committee Update--Leroy said that at the last meeting, the committee voted on disbursements, and \$95,100 will be disbursed and \$84,900 will go into the Mission Investment Fund. Letters will be going out in the next five to seven days to those who have been awarded funds, to those who are on a waiting list for funds, and to those who will not receive awards. Pastor Terry said it has been amazing to watch the thoughtfulness behind these decisions made by the committee.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Resignation of Amber (Office Business Administrator)--David said the Personnel Committee met, and Amber, Twyla, and Kim are updating the job description and will then update the council. Pastor Terry had a conversation with Diane and Amber, and the job opening will be posted by the end of the month, interviews after that, and when someone is hired, Amber will work with the new person to help make the transition go smoothly. Amber will stay in her position through the end of July. Pastor Terry shared with the council that Amber has been an amazing team player with good people skills and work ethic, moved Trinity forward in its use of technology, and has been a real gift to our church.
- b. Introduction to " Shared Ministries" Possibilities--Pastor Terry, Pastor Karri, and David attended a Zoom meeting with the Synod. There was discussion on an effort to share ministries and the talent and gifts that different churches have to share. There is a need for shared ministry and the inspired aspect of ministry. Two years ago, Trinity was approached by the Synod to think about that potential, and as a result, Mi Chi Lu was formed--a conversation between five churches. Pastor Karri has been involved in shared ministry, and there has been dialogue with the Synod, for example, about hiring a shared Associate Pastor in line with "cooperative cluster style". This would not be a merger, but two churches could give an Associate Pastor a full-time position by sharing the position. This would be " ministry in a shared setting". More conversation to follow without a commitment at this time. Diane asked about what kind of time frame is there for this? If the council is open to this, the Synod representative needs to give us more information, and the council needs to be involved to see where this leads. David said it's a good time to discuss this, and Diane agreed. David also said we should ask questions and think about the MET Committee over the summer, come to some decisions for that group, and what we assign them.
- c. Introduction of Synod's Recommendation of "Smart Teams"--Pastor Karri and Kim were at the online meeting. The Synod has suggested that we need a plan to open the church according to guidelines as in social distancing, how, what, and when to clean, etc. The Synod said we need to put together a "Smart Team", a group who would establish the details and logistics needed to reopen. Pastor Terry said that because of what is happening due to the pandemic, we have been forced to hit the pause button in

our lives. He asked how would God look at a hurt world? We need to think about how we can start in a whole new way.

David asked about what gifts we are looking for in a Smart Team? Pastor Terry said we need a good cross section of people, for example, someone from the field of medicine, a teacher, or a small business owner, varying backgrounds. David asked how to create a Smart Team, by committee or by the council? Should we put it out to the congregation to find a group of seven to nine people? They would need to establish a cleaning protocol, an outdoor worship platform, how to offer communion, receive offerings, who we need to facilitate services such as Altar Guild, ushers, or if anyone should sing, among other details. David said there will be three phases in opening the church. Names for the Team should be submitted to the Executive Council who will also set the criteria to outline the framework and move forward. Nicole said the process should stay within the Council instead of the Executive Council. Craig agreed.

MM by Rachel Carlson to give Pastor Terry the authority to put a list of names together and contact individuals to create a Smart Team. MS by Leroy Mitchell. MP. Pastor will act quickly. Following is another motion made for added clarity.

MM by Nicole Smith to give council authority to Pastor Terry to construct a committee of seven to nine members of varying backgrounds for the orderly and safe reopening of the church. MS by Nancy Johnson. MP. Pastor Terry will pull a group together this week, and they can set a schedule. The council will be informed, and information will be reported at the next meeting.

9. REMINDERS: June Council Devotions and Weekly Newsletter Article (due to Amber on Wednesday of each week) Coleen will do devotions in June.

10. ADJOURN: Closing Prayer--Pastor Terry. MM by Diane John to adjourn the meeting, MS by Nancy Johnson, MP.

Submitted by Cathy Johnson, Secretary