

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Special Council Meeting
June 1, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Karri Anderson, Kim Anderson, Rachel Carlson, Colleen Guilfoile, Terry Hogenson, Diane John, Cathy Johnson, David Johnson, Jim Jordal, Nancy Johnson, Leroy Mitchell, Pastor Terry Nordheim, Katie Roche

MEMBERS ABSENT: Craig Martin, Nicole Smith, Jolene Wille

GUESTS: Gail Seaver

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting Called to Order at 7:06 by David Johnson, President
2. DEVOTIONS: David Johnson
3. NEW BUSINESS:
 - UPDATE on SAFETY COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT--Pastor Terry was authorized to recruit a "Safety Team" (previously called "Smart Team") to develop church reopen protocol at Trinity. He has asked seven people to make up that team, and five have said yes. He is waiting for confirmation from the remaining two. The five who said yes are: Russ Morris, Dr. Rebecca Hanson, Gary Peterson, Joe Thimm, and Allen Blegen. The goal is to have their first meeting on Tuesday, June 2, or Wednesday, June 3. Pastor Terry also said that the pastors from Mi Chi Lu will be part of a conversation that will help create a unified plan to reopen the churches in our area, and there will be a representative from each church Safety Team who will be coming together to form a cohesive plan to achieve that goal. Pastor Terry suggested that the "Safety Team" name be changed to "ReStart Team"
 - COMMUNICATION WITH THE CONGREGATION ON FUTURE PLANS ON REOPENING--David said Pastor Terry will send a letter to the congregation about reopening the church and how that process will work. There is not an opening date at this time, but the ReStart Team being formed will soon gather to work towards establishing guidelines that will need to be followed when the church reopens. There was discussion about the wide variety of messages coming from ELCA, the Synod, and the State, concerning reopening.

David asked if the names of the ReStart Team should go in the letter. Katie recommended that he get confirmation from committee members to include their names. She also said updated Covid 19 stats should be included as a reminder that this is a real thing happening amongst us. Colleen recommended including worship as well as everything else going on within the church. All those details should be in the letter to the congregation. David thought that was a good idea. Communication, transparency, and connection with the congregation are important, positive things. The ReStart Team will lay out the parameters and create the protocol for reopening, and it will come up with the particulars regarding different situations and events. It was recommended that examples of what the team will address should go in the letter so that the congregation will have a detailed idea of what is happening.

Kim said when she attended the Synod meeting, there was an example of a church with dual reopening teams that would make sure each team knows they can reach out to support one another and share resources. Reopening a church involves a lot of work. Pastor Terry said there are plans from the Synod that include five stages for reopening, and there are churches with established plans that we can use as a resource and guide for Trinity. He thought it is a good idea to make use of the best ideas already out there.

Rachel said we should continue to follow the Synod guidelines and include those in the letter to the congregation. The final draft of the letter needs to be approved by the council before going out to the congregation. Pastor Terry and Pastor Karri will attend the ReStart Committee meetings, and Pastor Terry will work on finalizing the letter that will ultimately go out to the congregation.

David asked Gail Seaver to attend this meeting. Gail said he doesn't anticipate any overlap between Stewardship, Finance, Council, or Staff. The Stewardship statement focuses on Stewardship finance. Questions on the quarterly letter from Stewardship and ReStart will not overlap, there will be separate letters. Stewardship and Finance Committee quarterly statements are on a different track from the ReStart letter. Gail will let the congregation know how well we are doing financially and ask for continued giving. He will meet with Twyla. Gail talked about parking lot services and offering prepackaged communion. Colleen said that is expensive to order, and there might be other alternatives.

- GENERAL COMMENTS, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS--Pastor Terry said he has had more graveside funerals, baptism and home communion requests, and a wedding that is supposed to take place in July. The church is not open, so there are many pieces of church life to address. He also said the church has ordered some prepackaged communion offerings to have on hand in the event the church starts outdoor worship. There is no single answer or easy way to address everything that is happening, but Trinity will find a way to connect to one another and talk about how we will come together for a healthy worship.

Kim discussed the job opening for Office Administrator, and the job description could be posted as soon as June 2, 2020. They will take applications from now through mid-June and begin interviews by the middle of June. When someone is hired, Amber will help the new-hire make the transition into that position. Amber anticipates working through part of July, depending on when her position is filled. Matt's job description is still open ended to help provide flexibility for him to keep doing what he is doing for Trinity. The organist played for the last Sunday service. For clarification, the Worship Committee's job does not include creating the actual worship service. David thanked everyone attending the meeting.

4. CLOSING PRAYER...Pastor Terry

5. ADJOURN

Submitted by Cathy Johnson, Secretary