

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

June 16, 2020

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Russ Morris

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:01 by David Johnson, President
2. DEVOTIONS: Colleen Guilfoile
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Addition of discussion on elevator repairs under Old Business. MM by Diane to approve the agenda with the addition. MS by Colleen, MP.
4. APPROVAL OF THE MAY AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: MM by Leroy to approve both May and Special Council Meeting Minutes. MS by Diane, MP.
5. SENIOR PASTOR REPORT: Pastor Terry discussed a re-evaluation of the Calling Tree. Should calls continue every week or change to every other week? There continues to be members hospitalized and member deaths. Pastor Terry said he can't do what he longs to do, which is to minister in person. Russ Morris is heading up the ReStart Committee, Kim is working on hiring a new Office Manager, and currently, there is nothing happening with the organist position. Pastor Terry said the staff are doing well, and they are continuing the online presentations. There have been conversations about a deck platform for outdoor worship. The ReStart Committee has met three times so far, and the members have discussed the letter and survey to the congregation. Pastor Karri updated the Council on MET, and she said that one more person is needed on the committee.
6. TREASURER'S REPORT: Diane said that the Trinity is sitting good, financially. There has been above average giving, and Trinity is about \$30,000 ahead of budget with the help of PPP. There is a little over \$31,000 remaining in PPP loan funds, and money is left in the annuity.
7. OLD BUSINESS:
 - OFFICE MANAGER VACANCY--Kim said the Personnel Committee has conducted several interviews and has five people who are viable, well qualified candidates. Of those, two people rose to the top for consideration. The Committee will ask those two back for another interview, and then an offer will be submitted. The goal is for the new person to start soon and overlap with Amber, who will help with the transition. The offer letter will be sent to Council for approval.
 - ReSTART COMMITTEE UPDATE--Pastor Terry and Pastor Karri are involved with the Committee comprised of seven people. Russ gave a description of each member on the Committee, and they come from varied backgrounds and skill sets. The Committee includes people from the fields of education, business, and medicine. Some are parents of young children, as well as people involved in church activities and groups. They will work quickly and with considerable thought to reopening Trinity for gathering and how that will be accomplished safely.

Russ said the Committee wants feedback from the congregation as soon as possible. Their voices need to be heard in this process, and the Committee is now getting lots of questions about meeting in church again. The Committee plans on getting out their informational letter to the congregation very soon, as well as sending out a survey to find out how the congregation feels about reopening Trinity and what their concerns might be. The ReStart Committee recognizes that reopening Trinity is a serious business.

The consensus of the Committee is a reopen date of July 12 for an outdoor worship service only, observing social distancing and wearing face masks. The details are still being discussed. For example, people can bring their own chairs and there could be a praise band to provide music or possibly a sound system connected to car radios. Questions were asked such as; will the church bathrooms be open, how will people arrive and depart, will there be a social hour allowed, will there be singing? David said the Worship and Music Committee will work out some of those details. Online worship services will continue.

Russ said there are many details to work out, and right now, the Committee does not want to send out a lengthy letter to the congregation with lots of details. The priority is "paint with a broad brush" right now and focus on the outdoor service. They will address opening the building soon. He said it is important to communicate with the congregation every week or every other week. Coke suggested they preface the letter to the congregation with "additional details will follow". Nicole suggested posting Committee letters on the website. Diane asked if there would be more than one service planned for July 12..answer is no. Katie asked if it is the intention of the Committee to send another letter out? Russ said at least one or more letters with details will be sent. He also noted that volunteers will be needed to help run the service. He reminded the council that the ReStart Committee will come up with recommendations for reopening, but it will be up to the council to rally forces to accomplish the tasks.

Kim thanked Russ for working on a "good plan from the head and heart". She also said the Committee should send communications, not Council or staff. She also felt the biggest problem will be to get people to follow the rules for reopening. Or, will people make their own choices? Russ said there will be protocols to adhere to. Nicole thought it would be helpful to have the youth and older members make videos asking people to adhere to those protocols. The letter to the congregation will go out with some adjustments.

MM by Colleen to approve the letter and survey to the congregation from the ReStart Committee and accept the letter with some adjustments from the staff. MS by Leroy, MP. The letter will be signed by the ReStart Committee, and Pastors Karri and Terry said the congregation needs to understand that the decisions are also coming from the Committee, not just the Council or staff. The letter will also go out in hard copy to those who do not do electronic communication.

Kim asked if July 12 is a realistic date to hold an outdoor service, and Russ said they will discuss that further at their meeting on Wednesday, June 17 and hopefully formulate some answers. David said there needs to be flexibility given to that projected date of worship.

- OTHER--Elevator and Organ-Leroy said the elevator repair started today, and this phase will be done by Friday. The remaining repair work should be done and completed by the end of July. The air conditioning in the Narthex stopped working and needs repair or replacement. Some painting and tile work was started and should be completed by August 1 and will be funded out of Endowment.
Pastor Terry said the organ is functioning, but there will be an additional tune-up after the air conditioning has run for a while and there is less humidity in the air. Joanne has played the organ for online service. The bill for repairs has been submitted. Leroy asked if the Personnel Committee is going to get the word out about an organist vacancy, and Pastor Terry said the job posting has been tabled for now. It will be posted again once the Office Manager position has been filled.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- DISCUSSION ON TRINITY'S INSURANCE COVERAGE--Diane and Amber met with the representative of the proposed insurance policy that was brought to Council. The Finance Committee had already met to compare insurance companies and reviewed both with input from Peter Overgaard. There was not too much difference in premiums, but there is more to consider. Pastor Terry said they need to ask the insurance companies what happens concerning covid. Leroy asked if covid is covered when Trinity meets? What is the liability if people don't follow the safety rules and protocols? David said we need more review on insurance information, and we need to be ready with insurance by the target date for an outdoor service.

9. REMINDERS: NEXT MONTH'S DEVOTION: Diane will do next month's devotion.

10. CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Karri

11. ADJOURN: MM by Leroy to adjourn. MS by Nicole, MP.

Submitted by Cathy Johnson, Secretary