

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Council Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2020

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

*Those on Zoom had difficulty with audio during the meeting.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Craig Martin

GUESTS: Russ Morris, Cass Dennison, Jerry Rhoads

CALL to ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by David Johnson, President

DEVOTIONS: Jim Jordal

APPROVAL of the AGENDA: MM by Diane John to approve the meeting agenda. MS by Leroy Mitchell. MP.

APPROVAL of the AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: MM by Colleen Guilfoile to approve the August Council Meeting Minutes. MS by Diane John. MP.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT-- Pastor Terry:

- The Synod Assembly is virtual and is scheduled in September, 2020. It will be held via Zoom, and election of the bishop is the key event. Trinity will have two clergy and two to three lay people represent the church.
- Meetings with Mi Chi Lu, including the local Methodist Church, have continued via Zoom, and they are discussing their plans for reopening their churches for inside service. The goal is for the churches to move forward with this in a unified, thoughtful way.
- Online viewership for live-stream worship and pre-recorded worship continues to be well attended.
- Stewardship focus for 2020/2021 is "Developing a Culture of Generosity".
- There are conversations about starting Baptisms again. There are four Baptisms scheduled outside in September and October. Families are participating in anointing the baby with oil and pouring holy water on their baby's head.
- There are sixteen confirmation students scheduled to be confirmed outside on September 27, 2020.
- Hospital visits are continuing via phone.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT--Pastor Karri:

- Update on Met Team--the Met Team is finally put together. The members are: Cinnamin Theisen, Mike Chrun, Carol Johnson, Katie Roche, Denise Calhoun, and Christian Schmidt. Denise Calhoun will head the team.
- The first meeting is with Justin Grim via Zoom to lay out what they are looking for and what is needed. The Met Team is filling out a site profile--a document the Synod uses to send to prospective candidates.
- There is a possibility of shared ministry. There are several Lutheran churches in the area that are possibilities. The Associate Pastor's position and benefits would be

shared, but the individual church councils would not be shared. This would be a shared position, not a merger. Because congregations are diminishing in membership, a shared Associate Pastor ministry could look at the model in ELCA, look at individual needs, and bring two churches together. It would be a term calling and come to an end, especially if either party can say it is not working. Or, if it is working well, the term could be extended into another term call. This is a timely idea.

- Pastor Terry also said that it is easier to find a full time Pastor and share that position than it is trying to hire a part-time Associate Pastor.

TREASURER'S REPORT--Diane John:

- The Finance Committee did not have a meeting in September--budget could be almost the same as last year. At the next meeting, they will start working on the budget.
- The forms to fill out for the P.P.P. loan forgiveness have been received and are being worked on.
- Diane handed out a Finance Report to Council, and we are doing well, financially.
 1. We are ahead in pledged and unpledged offering: Budget: \$318,044. Actual: \$336,571.
 2. Expenses show that we have spent less than budgeted: Budget: \$357,608. Actual: \$335,217.
 3. In August, we received \$14,000. in annual gifts not included in the weekly offerings.
 4. We have received the final elevator repair bill which included an item not included in the original estimate but deemed necessary. That item was for \$1,129.

MM by Diane John to take \$1,129. out of MIF to pay for the added elevator repair. MS by Terry Hogenson. MP.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ReStart Committee--Russ--there is a letter to the congregation coming from the council, staff, and ReStart Committee. The committee has scaled back on their number of meetings. They have recently talked about some events--how to safely conduct "Operation Christmas Child", a conversation with Bonnie about the coat drive, and how to handle Baptism in the event of bad weather. Even though the committee has reduced their number of meetings, they will report in on a regular basis.
- Creation Care Committee--Cass Dennison--several CCC committee members were present, and Cass explained that the committee is looking for approval from the council to apply for and become a Climate Justice Congregation by completing a certificate program through MNIPL--Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, a faith based organization founded in 2004.

MNIPL's Belief: "Active Care of Creation is Integral to a Spiritual Life and Social Justice". As a committee, our goal is to become a "Faith Community that has officially committed to living out our faith through effective and sustained action on Climate Justice".

Several steps have been completed on our way to becoming a Climate Justice Congregation, including attending the seminar "Be the Spark". The certification process will take one year. The purpose of the program is for our congregation to become active in the care of God's creation and choose to do things that make a difference. MNIPL will provide us with many resources for educational, inspirational, and action based ideas. MM by Jolene Wille to approve the application process to become a Climate Justice Congregation. MS by Nancy Johnson. MP.

- Bequest Report Informational Meetings Update:
 1. The Pearl and Elmer Nelson Annuity given to Trinity was around \$200,000. Then Pearl left her estate of almost \$1,600,000. in a bequest to Trinity. Fifty percent of that went into the Mission Investment Fund where we receive interest, and ten percent of the MIF went to Second Sunday giving. The other fifty percent of the Bequest went into the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust.
 2. There are a few more small group congregational information meetings scheduled before the Special Congregational Meeting. Questions are welcome. Once the BTF recommendation has been approved by the congregation, suggestions can be made. The committee wants one hundred percent consensus from the congregation to move forward. People can direct their questions to the Task Force or to the office, and a response will be given.
 3. There is still about \$ 82,560 remaining from Endowment to give out for different Program Growth opportunities.
- Congregational Fall Meeting Status/Discussion of Possible Date:

Do we want to try to hold an Annual Fall Meeting? The only item on the agenda will be the Bequest Task Force recommendation and a Congregational vote for its approval. The date for the Special Congregational Meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2020 with October 11, 2020 as a back-up if the weather is bad on October 4th.

MM by Kim Anderson to move forward with the Special Congregational Fall Meeting for the Bequest Task Force Recommendation vote on October 4, 2020, with October 11, 2020 as an alternate date in case of bad weather. MS by Colleen Guilfoile. MP.

One thing that could change the meeting date is if there is negative feedback or additional concerns from the congregation on the BTF recommendation.

- Nomination Committee Update:

There is only one "yes" for a council position and three "maybes". There is not time to give a thirty-day notice of nominees prior to a Congregational vote, so that will not be on the Special Congregational meeting agenda on October 4, 2020. This vote will take place at a later date.
- Staffing Status Update/Dave Groettum's Recognition Update:

Twyla and Matt are getting lots of good stories coming in about David's time as Choir Director, and several people are coming in to make a video. Brian Voss is coming in too. Pastor Terry is setting up an exit interview with Dave. Good affirmation is coming up.
- Music Program Task Force Charge/Selection of Members (See Handout):

There are two vacancies to fill in Trinity's music program; the Lead Organist and the Senior Choir Director. The church council has decided to appoint a Music Program Task Force whose charge would be to review and examine Trinity's entire music program and assess its needs, develop and prepare recommendations that define the job descriptions, and make a proposal to the Executive Council Committee.

The Personnel Committee is recommending that the Music Task Force Committee be made up of seven people. Those people will be chosen from a broad spectrum of skills, ages and backgrounds, and members who attend the first service and those who attend the second service. (traditional and contemporary). The committee will also include the Pastor.

MM by Colleen Guilfoile to adopt the Music Task Force Charge. MS by Leroy Mitchell. MP.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Creation Care Committee: see under OLD BUSINESS
- Relocation of Soundboard Proposal (See Handout):
Sixty-percent of the congregation surveyed want the online service to continue even after the church re-opens for inside service. So the soundboard and video equipment needs to be moved to the main floor for better audio/video quality. There will also be a camera in the balcony and on the main floor where the last pew was located. The plan is to build a booth for sound personnel and a camera person next to them. \$10,000 is set aside for the project plus a \$3,000 gift.

Matt is getting estimates to move the equipment and build cabinetry for the main floor live-streaming equipment. There will also be audio and video available in the Narthex. MM by Leroy Mitchell to support the plan based on the estimate of costs to move the sound board and TV to the main floor. MS by Nancy Johnson. MP.

OTHER:

- Pastor Terry handed out a "Lutheran Disaster Response U.S. WILD FIRES" informational and donation flier from ELCA. He thought we could have Second Sunday matching funds for U.S. Wildfires and put it in the bulletin with a two week window. MM by Colleen Guilfoile to support the Lutheran Disaster Response to U.S. Wildfires outreach in the October matching funds offering. MS by Jolene Wille. MP.

MM by Jolene Wille to adjourn the meeting. MS by Diane John. MP.

Submitted by Cathy Johnson, Secretary

