

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Karri Anderson, Colleen Guilfoile, Sherry Holt, Cathy Johnson, David Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Craig Martin, Leroy Mitchell, Pastor Terry Nordheim, Jackie Otte, Gary Peterson, Linda Popa, Katie Roche, Heather Wehrenberg.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Russ Morris

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Craig Martin, President.
2. DEVOTIONS--"Reclaiming the "L" Word", (chapter 5) Pastor Karri and Pastor Terry:
 - Discussion on chapter 5--a meaningful conclusion--the transforming love of God makes the difference in our lives.
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

MM by Katie Roche to approve the agenda with an addition to the agenda under Restart COVID suggestions, "to communicate with the congregation when there is an exposure". MS by Nancy Johnson. MP.
4. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

MM by Nancy Johnson to approve the October Council Meeting Minutes. MS by Linda Popa. MP.
5. SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT--Pastor Terry:
 - The 2021 fall worship schedule beginning September 12 is a weekly, single service at 9:00 A.M., alternating traditional and contemporary services, followed by an adult education hour at 10:15. There is also a coffee hour offered in Fellowship Hall following the weekly service.
 - The Advent/Christmas focus is "Close to Home", a seven week series.
 - The Coordinator of Children's and Family Ministry--Emmy Lundeen was hired starting on September 7, 2021. The Outreach Coordinator position was filled--Katie Roche was hired to start in November. The Director of Music--the position remains unfilled, but there were five applicants, they reached out to four of them, and two were interviewed. The process is still ongoing.
 - The Capital Improvement Task Force met with the ELCA consultant, Anne Gerrietts, to review plans for moving forward as the newly appointed Building Renovation Committee begins its work. The committee plans to meet with Enerchange for energy saving information and ideas.
 - Parnly Chapel Worship will resume soon.
 - There are currently two book discussion groups meeting weekly on Thursdays at 7:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.
 - There have been in-person baptisms and funerals, and two weddings are coming up.
 - Caring Connection Teams are meeting to discuss member concerns, visiting shut-ins, and phone call follow ups.
6. ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT--Pastor Karri:

- The Adult Education Committee is looking for people to brainstorm ideas for Bible studies, book studies, etc.
- An Advent devotional book will be passed out.
- There will be three services on Christmas Eve: 3:00 P.M., 4:30 P.M., (outdoors) and a 10:00 P.M. candlelight service. Trinity is trying to organize the choir for the 10:00 P.M. service.
- There was discussion about children being present at the Sunday service, and the feedback was positive. The children seem to pay more attention if they are up front, and the possibility of handing out some puzzles or other things was discussed. The youth are our future, so the discussion was about trying to keep them busy, but involved during Sunday service.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT--Sherry Holt:

- Monthly Financial Report--

October Income and YTD Income:

1. October Budget--\$43,011.72
2. October Actual--\$38,949.61
3. YTD Budget--437,567.20
4. YTD Actual--\$391,986.99

October Expense and YTD Expense:

1. October Budget--\$47,438.32
2. October Actual--\$51,313.58
3. YTD Budget--\$442,568.20
4. YTD Actual--\$407,650.33

October Income Less Expense and YTD Income Less Expense:

1. October Budget--\$-4,426.60
2. October Actual--\$-12,363.97
3. YTD Budget--\$-5,001.00
4. YTD Actual--\$-15,663.34

- There is plenty in the checking account right now. There have been no transfers from Bequest yet, but there will be a transfer of about \$13,000 by November or December.
- Update on External Audit--there is a Zoom meeting scheduled for December 13th with Georgia (auditor). Twyla will send her information ahead of the meeting. There will be a plan in January.

OLD BUSINESS:

8. ReSTART COVID SUGGESTIONS (Update)--Russ Morris and Gary Peterson:

1. The number of Covid cases are increasing in Minnesota and in Chisago County.
2. Russ said the committee has shifted away from Covid being Trinity's responsibility to being the individual member's responsibility. The Task Force has done everything it feels it can do. ReStart will track cases/vaccine numbers in Minnesota and Chisago County. He said that the County is not doing much better vaccine wise than it was a year ago. He emphasized again that personal responsibility lies with individuals as far as taking the necessary precautions for themselves and the safety of others around them regarding the spread of COVID-19.

3. The ReStart Committee will continue to communicate weekly and meet when necessary.
 4. Outside Organization Discussion--the Task Force is saying that "it's back to business as usual". People can come into the church, and Trinity doesn't require masks, but does encourage people to wear them while gathering inside.
 5. Addition to the agenda--communicating with the congregation when there is an exposure--the first positive COVID-19 case known in Trinity involves a minor who attended church on Sunday, November 14th, and Trinity was just notified. Russ said information should go out to the congregation in a form that parallels what the schools use in order to inform everyone. Russ recommended that an email be sent, and someone suggested that the notification and what people should be aware of be sent separately. Gary agreed, and an email will be sent out to the congregation by tomorrow.
9. MUSIC DIRECTOR CANDIDATE SELECTION UPDATE--Pastor Terry/Katie:

- There was discussion about how many specifics to share and when to share them during the application process. There have been five applicants, and Trinity has reached out to four of the five. Two have been interviewed. One candidate was very qualified with outstanding skills, but there were other complications making it difficult to immediately fill the position with that candidate.

A council member questioned why more information about this person or the particulars in this case haven't been shared with council members. Pastor Terry said there were/are many complications and circumstances to sort out, so it was more difficult to share the details that were part of that ongoing process. Now the candidate of interest has accepted another job offer for the time being, but Trinity may consider this person again in the near future.

There are many factors to consider if the opportunity comes up to look at this candidate again, ie; living wage, housing, transportation, etc. Meanwhile, Katie will work on posting the job opening. Coke thanked Pastor Terry and Katie for all their hard work in this process. The council wants to contact this individual to see if he is still interested in the position at Trinity once his other commitment is finished in June of 2022.

10. GIFTING POLICIES UPDATE--David Johnson/Coke Guilfoile:
- What is a gift--what are gift giving guidelines? A gift is in the form of:
 1. A financial donation
 2. A physical/material donation
 3. A memorial donation
 - We need to make each other and the congregation more aware of what "gifts" are. The committee has work to do, and after the gift policy is written, everyone will need education on what our gift policy is and how it works.
11. BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE:
- Pastor Terry said the committee has met twice and will meet again this Thursday. They have looked at all the heating and cooling systems in Trinity. He has met with Gail to discuss roles of the committee members. They will start out with a task list and timeline and then will need refinement. They will have the list and timeline ready by next month.

- The plan is to report to the congregation at the February Congregational Meeting with more information along with an architectural design. The goal is to have cottage meetings with the congregation next spring to explain what is happening with the renovation process and to share more detailed information. Then the next goal is to have more defined plans to share by next fall, have the costs for the project available, and ask the congregation for their "ok".
- There was discussion to establish a Capital Campaign at the Fall Meeting, and the projected timeline now is to work on the renovation project between May 1st-August 2023.

12. 2022 BUDGET PROCESS:

- Sherry thanked the group for getting their budget requests turned in on time. The Finance Committee has met twice to go over the budget. They will meet again in December to make final recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS:

13. ACTION/MOTION-Amazon TLC Account--Sherry Holt:

- Amazon account--Rachel is exploring the cost savings for some of the church supplies by buying them through Amazon. Rachel would like the council to approve an Amazon account.

MM by Sherry Holt to add an Amazon account for Rachel. MS by Colleen Guilfoile. MP.

14. DISCUSSION/CHARGE-GREEN SPACE TF SPECIAL PROJECT:

- Pastor Terry suggested that discussion about the green space be directed to the Green Space Task Force. He does not want to tie it in with the building renovation project. We could use the interest from the Bequest dollars towards the green space project.

15. DISCUSSION--CHRISTMAS PARTY:

- The staff, current council members, new council members, and their spouses are invited to the Christmas party on December 15th at 6:00 P.M. There was discussion on having it catered, and there will also be a list of appetizers and dessert for people to bring. Rachel will create an RSVP list.

16. OTHER:

- There was discussion about funds for cake for Bonnie's retirement and Trinity's 120th Anniversary celebration.

MM by David Johnson to take \$108. out of dedicated undesignated funds for the cake for Bonnie and Trinity. MS by Nancy Johnson. MP.

- Children's Ministry--Jackie Otte: Attendance is down. There is a fear of being masked as well as unmasked.
- Nancy Johnson mentioned that the humidifier for the organ is low on water. Gary Peterson will follow up on that.

CLOSING PRAYER : The Lord's Prayer

ADJOURN:

MM by Nancy Johnson to adjourn the meeting. MS by Katie Roche. MP. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by Cathy Johnson, Secretary