

LoTRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Council Meeting
May 18, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Karri Anderson, Kim Anderson, Terry Hogenson, Sherry Holt, Cathy Johnson, David Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Jim Jordal, Craig Martin, Leroy Mitchell, Pastor Terry Nordheim, Katie Roche.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rachel Carlson,

GUESTS: Cass Dennison, Mike Leadholm, Russ Morris, Becky Palmgren

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 P.M. by David Johnson, President
2. DEVOTIONS: Sherry Holt
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: MM by Leroy Mitchell to approve the meeting agenda. MS by Terry Hogenson. MP.
4. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: MM by Leroy Mitchell to approve the April Council minutes. MS by Terry Hogenson. MP.
5. SENIOR PASTOR REPORT--Pastor Terry:
 - The new Business Administrator, Rachel, is becoming more oriented in her position.
 - During the last fourteen months, the church has been closed for indoor worship due to the pandemic, and the staff has been taking on various duties during that time that will now be handed back to volunteers within the congregation. Members will once again share in ministry and leadership. They will look to the council to help in that process.
 - The plan for summer worship is to hold indoor worship at 8:30 A.M. and outdoor worship at 10:00 A.M. If there are not enough people attending, that could change to one service and then have coffee and gather in the courtyard on Sunday morning.
 - Pastor Terry would like to return to "Building Blocks of Faith" which was cut short because of the pandemic.
 - Pastor Terry remembered Vern and Shirley Mollan with their ability to mentor and welcome new people to the church. How will the church replace them in this role since Vern's passing? Hopefully that important and meaningful volunteer role will once again be filled by someone who will continue to welcome and help transition new members.
 - Trinity is once again holding indoor funerals, and we have some baptisms coming up.
 - Trinity is working on its post pandemic recovery through mission and ministry.
6. ASSOCIATE PASTOR REPORT--Pastor Karri:
 - Pastor Karri conducted another funeral service at a funeral home on the same day as the service held at Trinity.
 - Pastor Karri attended an online conflict training session that lasted for one ploweek. She will have a meeting with the assistant to the Synod Bishop on how to utilize the training.
7. TREASURER REPORT--Sherry Holt:
 - Giving was down slightly in April.
 - Monthly/Yearly Financial Report:
 1. April Income--Budget: \$46,011.72 Actual: \$32,565.63
 2. April Expense--Budget: \$45,888.32 Actual: \$38,349.61
 3. YTD Income--Budget: \$176,496.88 Actual: \$173,640.12

4. YTD Expense--Budget: \$177,398.28 Actual: \$164,753.96

5. YTD Income less Expense--Budget: \$2,098.60 Actual: \$8,886.16

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- ReStart Committee Update--Russ Morris--the committee has not met since the latest CDC guidelines were issued. They will meet tomorrow. The Task Force is not done yet, and they are planning to adopt a straightforward approach of implementing two out of three criteria--for example, if you worship outdoors and exercise social distancing, then you do not have to wear a mask. The number of Covid-19 cases have fluctuated in our county, and the numbers are not quite as good as the State's overall numbers, but the overall rate of vaccines and cases have allowed us to move indoors. Even so, the Committee will recommend that the congregation continue to wear masks indoors for possibly another month or two.
- Scholarship Foundation Concept /Discussion--Mike Leadholm and Becky Palmgren from ELCA: Mike is making a request to establish a separate Scholarship Foundation to create a separate fund for scholarships only. He said when people give legacy gifts, they can put the gifts where they want them, and it would make sense to have a separate endowment so that they can be tracked. He feels that people are more likely to give to a designated Scholarship Fund, and the Fund could be named the "Pearl Nelson Scholarship Fund".

The question was asked, "why can't it stay in one of the Endowment categories and then restructure the by-laws to protect that fund?" Becky explained that a separate, designated fund would not need a Board of Directors and could pay out its own distributions, similar to an Endowment Fund. The Council explained that we already have a dedicated scholarship account with funds of \$10,000 and Bequest money of \$15,000. Three suggestions were made for maintaining funds:

1. Create a separate account for scholarships, combining the \$10,000 in Scholarship Funds with \$15,000 in Bequest money and invest those with MIF.
2. Expand the existing Endowment Fund categories from five to six. A sixth category could be created for a separate dedicated scholarship account.
3. Create a separate Scholarship Fund through a designated ELCA Endowment Fund.

There was further discussion, and the suggestion was made to Mike that he come back to the Council with a specific proposal and then a vote could take place.

- 2021 Annual Meeting Update (Logistics/Elections Ballot, etc.)--David: Worship is at 9:00 and the Annual Meeting starts at 10:30. There are one-hundred agendas and ballots printed for the meeting. Additional printed Annual Reports continue to be available at the church or on the website.

MM by Sherry Holt to approve the ballot of candidates for election. MS by Leroy Mitchell. MP.

Kim and Nancy will hand out ballots and Katie will count them. The congregation will be asked to authorize a Building Renovation Committee of five to nine people who will work with an architect and move forward with the project.

Paul Ives, Jeff Fuge, and Mary Haglund will be at the Annual Meeting.

- Music Program Task Force Update--Kim: no update
- Staff Vacancy Issues/Return of Joanne (organist)--Kim: Joanne is returning. The Synod has said that availability of part-time Pastors is not good. Up to one-third of the clergy is retiring or quitting. Trinity has been able to extend Pastor Karri's contract for another year, but benefits need to be discussed.

MM by Leroy Mitchell to authorize the Executive Committee and Personnel to research and look at everything in the contract and inform and make recommendations to the council. MS by Craig Martin. MP.

- Constitution Revisions Update/Vote Needed--Terry Hogenson/Colleen Guilfoile: There is a mass mailing to the congregation next Tuesday, May 25th, at 1:30 announcing the Special meeting on June 27th, and they need help.

MM by Terry Hogenson for the Church Council to recommend to adopt en bloc the updates to the Constitution, Bylaws and the Continuing Resolutions of Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Church. MS by Nancy Johnson. MP.

Voting will be by written ballot as per our Constitution.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- Boy Scout Chartered Organization Representative--Action Needed: the Official Chartered Organization Representative, Kristine Fuge, has resigned.

MM by Leroy Mitchell to nominate Jeff Fuge as the new Boy Scout Chartered Organization Representative. MS by Sherry Holt. MP.

- Creation Care Committee Request/Proposal (Green Space)--Cathy--the CCC Committee members went over to the Middle School and met Science teacher, Pat Collins to tour his student's Pollinator garden. We presented the council with our idea of a pollinator garden on the slope between the lamp post and bushes on the north end. We would like to put in a two-tiered, contained garden space with plants and flowers to attract pollinators. The area would be a smaller, manageable size, and we would like the possibility of placing a memorial bench or two on the flat space at the top of the slope. Trinity has talked about putting in some stairs/steps to make it easier to get down to the green space, and we think they would look nice next to the tiered garden. The Boy Scouts are looking for a service project for Trinity, and we have asked for their help. The Council recommended that we talk to the appropriate staff and committees and come back to council with a detailed plan to scale.
- Special Organizational Council Meeting (Election of New Council Officers for 2021):

After the Annual Meeting, there will be about a ten minute Council meeting to elect officers. That vote will be by written ballot.

- Bequest Fund Oversight Recommendation:

MM by Cathy Johnson that the Executive Committee take on the role and responsibility of the Bequest Distribution Committee functions. MS by Katie Roche. MP.

- Reminders: Council Devotions for the June Meeting--Cathy Johnson
- Closing Prayer--Pastor Karri
- Adjourn--MM by Nancy Johnson to adjourn. MS by Katie Roche. MP.

Submitted by Cathy Johnson, Secretary