

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Council Minutes
March 16, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT--Kim Anderson, Colleen Guilfoile, Terry Hogenson, Diane John, Cathy Johnson, David Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Craig Martin, Leroy Mitchell, Pastor Terry Nordheim.
MEMBERS ABSENT--Pastor Karri Anderson, Rachel Carlson, Jim Jordal, Katie Roche.
GUESTS--Russ Morris, Gail Seaver.

1. CALL TO ORDER--at 7:00 P.M. by David Johnson, President
2. DEVOTIONS--Terry Hogenson
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA--MM by Terry Hogenson to approve the March Agenda. MS by Diane John. MP.
4. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES--MM by Diane John to approve the February Council Minutes. MS by Coke Guilfoile. MP.
5. SENIOR PASTOR REPORT--Pastor Terry:
 - There will continue to be 9:00am Broadcast Worship and 10:00am outdoor, in-person worship monthly.
 - Indoor worship will start on April 11th. Palm Sunday will be held outdoors.
 - There will be Holy Week Prayer Vigil on Wednesday-Friday. There will be a sign-up sheet available.
 - Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services are being recorded at seven different sites and will be available online at 6:30pm.
 - Easter Worship: 8:00am Sunrise Vigil, 9:00am Broadcast Worship, 10:00am Parking Lot Worship.
 - Capital Improvement Task Force-- will meet with ELCA consultant to review and update building plans, and Trinity is getting an energy audit performed at no cost.
 - Parmlly Chapel may open soon. Meetings continue with Mi Chi Lu via Zoom to discuss church plans for reopening.
 - Guatemala Mission Trip is cancelled for Spring 2021. It may happen in Fall of 2021 or Spring of 2022.
 - Individual staff will be taking vacation time in March and April.
 - There are more baptisms in the works. One will be recorded and added to the Easter Service.
 - The book discussion group continues to meet, First Communion Class of Spring 2021 will meet outdoors, and New Member 2021 classes will be scheduled on two Wednesdays, to be determined.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ReStart Committee Update/Letter to Congregation--Action Needed--Russ Morris--
Russ said ReStart is recommending one indoor service at 9:00am starting on April 11th. After a couple weeks, if more than fifty family units want to attend, they will recommend adding another service at 10:30am. There will be a sign-up sheet for the services, and the service will be recorded live, taped for online worship.

People will be encouraged to keep their coats with them, masks and social distancing will be required, and social gathering indoors is discouraged. A weekly contribution basket will be available, and communion will be at your seat with the same wine/wafer used at the outdoor communion. There will not be a nursery available and no singing of hymns by the congregation, but there will be limited music provided in a safe distance from those attending. A survey will be taken at the service for feedback.

MM by Leroy Mitchell to approve Russ's ReStart letter. MS by Nancy Johnson. MP.

- Bequest Funds Distribution Policies and Procedures--Action Needed, Gail Seaver--the committee has met five times, and at the Special Congregational Meeting on October 4, 2020, the congregation unanimously voted to approve the adoption of the Bequest Task Force recommendation to divide the Pearl and Elmer Nelson Undesignated Bequest Dollars invested with The ELCA Mission Investment Funds into five categories.

It was suggested that a committee should be appointed by the council to be in charge of making recommendations back to the council when there is a request for funds from one of the five categories. The committee would screen the requests before coming to the council. There would be a minimum of three people on the committee. This will save the council time and bring consistency. There will be a form to fill out to request funds, and the council will maintain full authority to make the final decision on granting the funds.

MM by Diane John to adopt Bequest Funds Distribution Policies and Procedures to form a committee to review and recommend requests for funds and submit those requests to the council. MS by Colleen Guilfoile. MP.

6. TREASURER REPORT/FINANCIAL REPORT--Diane John:

- Twyla sent out the January and February financials.
 1. YTD budgeted income: \$77,323.30, Actual: \$86,374.00.
 2. YTD budgeted expenses: \$88,105.39, Actual: \$82,900.17.
 3. Through February 28, 2021, we have received \$25,540 in annual pledges and \$15,000 came in March for the general fund.
 4. There is a balance of \$24,461.90 in Annuity.
 5. The 2020 cash reserves balance is still \$27,252.67.
 6. There are payroll funds for music presently in the budget.
- There was discussion on a possible future external audit for Trinity. Some feel it is a necessary and overdue action, and others who feel it is an excessive expense.
- Craig recommended that one of the following actions be taken:
 1. Make a motion to reconsider Jolene's motion for an external audit. Discuss and vote.
 2. Make an amendment to the motion.
 3. Rescind the motion--would require two-thirds consensus to "wipe out" the original motion.

- The original motion is still there and still alive. Research has been done on the cost. The question was asked, "how deep do we want to look at the process?" It was suggested that we invite Phil Diemel and Paul Ives to the next council meeting to discuss the difference between a review and an audit. Diane will contact Phil and Paul.

OLD BUSINESS Continued:

- 2021 Annual Meeting Update (Logistics/Elections/Agenda, etc.) Pastor Terry/David--voice vote at the meeting will be okay, but more serious items will require a paper ballot. We need to identify a nominating committee for elections. There will be two sets of council elections--in May to replace those going off at the end of the year, and in October for those starting in 2022. Election of officers will happen at the June meeting, and the council will elect new officers for six months.

Last October, we approved the Bequest Task Force recommendations, but we still need to formally approve and authorize a building committee to move forward with the building renovations.

- Annual Report Mailing/Distribution Issue, Executive Committee--mailing the Annual Report is very expensive, and the council felt copies could still be mailed to those who are not able to pick up a copy, and the bulk of reports could be available at church for pick-up, for example, at indoor worship starting April 11th or when people want to pick up a copy at church.
- MET UPDATE/Katie Roche--absent--Pastor Terry said there were people present at both in-person meetings to discuss the 53-54 survey results. They may schedule another meeting, and after that they would be ready to appoint a call committee.
- Music Program Task Force Update/Kim Anderson--Kim said there were 118 survey results about what people want for music at Trinity. The results were varied, and contemporary as well as traditional music is important to people. For years, Trinity has had a rich history of high quality music, and the committee needs to explore the financial part of hiring new positions to get the quality music that people want. The Task Force will continue to talk to people who were formerly involved in music at Trinity, people who are currently involved, and bring all that feedback plus survey results to the council and congregation via Zoom and other meetings.
- Constitution Revision Update/Coke Guilfoile--paper copies are available to pick up at Trinity. That information will be put in the newsletter to let people know where they can find a copy. Mindy can also create a link to find the constitution. There will be Q & A sessions via Zoom and in-person meetings at the end of April and beginning of May. The constitution and amendments have been checked by the Synod and approved. There will be a Special Congregational Meeting on June 27 to go over the amended parts of the constitution, be approved by the congregation, and then back to the Synod--they have thirty days. Thirty day notice will then be given to the congregation and the constitution will be on the agenda for ratification in October.

MM by Colleen Guilfoile to hold a Special Congregational Meeting on June 27th to approve the updated constitution and by-laws for Trinity. MS by Nancy Johnson. MP.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Staff Vacancies Update/Kim Anderson--Mindy is resigning as office administrator, and the position will be posted this week. Unless things change, she will overlap with the new person when the position is filled in order to help with the transition. Mindy has done an excellent job in her position at Trinity, and she has been a real asset to all of us..she will be missed!

We are still without an Organist and Choir Director. There is currently a volunteer playing for Trinity, and she is doing a beautiful job.

Kim summarized Pastor Terry's evaluation, and the consensus was very positive. For example, he is excellent at creating a vision for Trinity and appreciated and recognized for his stewardship and pastoral care.

- Creation Care Committee Information/Cathy Johnson-- There is an upcoming virtual meeting for faith communities across District 8 with Representative Stauber and hosted by MNIPL. The purpose of the meeting is for faith communities to share a statement with Stauber about what they feel is important regarding climate change and social justice, and how we, as people of faith, have a moral responsibility to care for and respect the life giving resources God created for us to use. There is more information along with an RSVP to the meeting in Trinity's newsletter. Members and friends of Trinity are welcome to attend via Zoom or in-person at Trinity (with masks and social distancing).
- Special Congregational Meeting (6/27/2021) To Adopt The Changes To The Constitution--
- Other?

REMINDERS: Council Devotions For April's Meeting, Volunteers?

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Terry

MM by Diane John to adjourn. MS by Terry Hogenson. MP.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Johnson, Secretary