

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Congregation at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lindstrom, Minnesota

February 27, 2022

Meeting called to order at 10:15 AM by Craig Martin (President)

Gary Peterson (Secretary) confirmed a quorum with 71 members counted in attendance

Opening prayer by Pastor Karri Anderson

Jeff Fuge was introduced as the parliamentarian for the meeting.

- Jeff Fuge moved to suspend the rules of order, allowing voice vote or show of hands rather than paper ballots with the exception of matters in the constitution that require a paper ballot. Second by Larry Guilfoile.
Motion carried.
- Colleen Guilfoile moved to approve the agenda. Second by Joanne Nielson.
Motion carried.
- Mary Haagland moved to approve minutes for the February 11, July 22, and October 14, 2018 congregational meetings. Second by Bernie Von Wold.
Motion carried.
- Jeff Fuge moved to approve all remaining minutes on the agenda. Second by Nancy Johnson
Motion carried.

Senior Pastor report

Pastor Terry Nordheim reviewed the challenges of the last two years with the pandemic. He discussed resilience and things we are thankful for that give him hope. He presented examples of resilience within the Trinity community. Even in the midst of the pandemic our benevolence is over \$123,000, in part from endowment and in part from the faith of the congregation in its giving and ministry. Trinity's coming challenge is how to reengage after we have been isolated for a while.

Pastor Karri stated that she is overjoyed at the decision to extend her call, with approval of the bishop. The Adult Education Advisory team has now met for the first time. They hope to offer new experiences for adults to grow in faith.

2021 financial summary

Sherry reviewed the financial report for 2021. Budget and actual expenses were reviewed side by side. Trinity's actual pledged offerings were about \$15,000 under the budget. Actual non-pledged offerings were about \$15,000 above the budget, partly because of a one time gift.

No money was spent this year from the Pearl Nelson Annuity.

No operational reserve money was spent.

\$12,200 from the Pearl and Elmer Nelson bequest staffing portion was spent to fund salary increases.

Expenses for the year were about \$11,000 over budget.

Comment from Russ Morris: You mentioned a transfer of \$12,000 from a Pearl and Elmer Nelson account. Please give more description of this.

Sherry: We have bequest from Pearl and Elmer Nelson. Some money in this bequest was set aside for staffing, and that is where the money came from. A total of \$89,000 was set aside. We have used \$12,000.

External audit: The 2021 Church Council approved an external audit of Trinity finances and procedures. This process has started. Some members have received a letter for the auditors asking for verification of contributions to Trinity. Twyla Mitchell and Sherry Holt are working to collect all of the information the auditors need.

2022 proposed budget

Sherry Holt stated that the Finance Committee presented the Church Council with two options. Church Council approved the option that is presented at this meeting.

Income	2022 Proposed Budget		2021
	2022		
Envelope-Pledged	\$ 321,000	\$	340,000
Envelope-Unpledged	\$ 114,618	\$	113,440
Loose	\$ 10,000	\$	10,000
Sunday School	\$ 250	\$	500
Nelson Annuity Transfer	\$ 24,462	\$	24,933
2020 Cash Reserves	\$ 27,253	\$	27,253
Bequest Transfer-Staffing	\$ 21,763	\$	-
Sub-Total	\$ 519,346	\$	516,126
Lenten Offering	\$ 4,000	\$	4,000
Easter Offering	\$ 3,000	\$	3,000
Thanksgiving Offering	\$ 800	\$	800
Christmas Offering	\$ 4,000	\$	4,000
Sub-Total	\$ 11,800	\$	11,800
Initial Offering	\$ 450	\$	450
Checkbook Interest	\$ 15	\$	15
Sub-Total	\$ 465	\$	465
Totals	\$ 531,611	\$	528,391

Expense			
Benevolence	\$	29,500	\$ 30,000
Personnel	\$	402,251	\$ 405,066
Educational Ministries	\$	2,500	\$ 500
Youth	\$	1,300	\$ 1,300
Witness & Outreach	\$	-	\$ -
Service Ministries	\$	150	\$ -
Stewardship Education	\$	500	\$ 500
Worship & Music	\$	8,310	\$ 7,700
Finance	\$	-	\$ -
Administration	\$	39,100	\$ 38,425
Building/Maintenance	\$	47,000	\$ 43,900
Council	\$	1,000	\$ 1,000
Totals	\$	531,611	\$ 528,391

To obtain a balanced budget, money was transferred from the staffing portion of the Pearl and Elmer Nelson bequest.

Comments from Russ Morris: Russ has looked over Trinity budgets from the last few years. He observes a trend that the number of worship attenders is going down. The number of Sunday School attenders is down. Pledged income is down. One-time gifts are going up. He noted that \$75,000 in the proposed balanced budget does not come from the current congregation. Never in the past has Trinity included as *income* the amount of reserve in the bank. Next year we will not have Pearl Nelson annuity. He stated that trends are going in the wrong direction. Russ' challenge to Council is to focus on how to turn the numbers around. The downward trend will take care of itself if we can bring our attendance numbers back up. Council should focus on these numbers. Top priority by this time next year is to figure out how to turn this around. How can we get back to two services, and broader appreciation for what we do at Trinity.

Question from Marilyn Heldt: How has the internet affected our offering and attendance?

Reply by Sherry Holt: Matt has run our technology. During offering section there is a little code on that page that allows online giving. There is also a booth in the back to assist people who are interested in on-line giving.

Comments from Mary Haagland: Mary has always been a proponent of youth in our church. She feels that we are blessed with Emmy (Director of Children's Education) and our Sunday school and youth program. Mary wants Council to focus on youth. She stated that if we get kids then we get parents with them. We need to start with families. We are an older congregation.

Comment from David Johnson: The key word is *re-engage*. David feels that Council has got the message

Comment from Carol Johnson: Carol has daughter in Montana where Sunday School is down to ten in church. How do we get our kids back? We are not the only church where this is happening.

Comment from Craig Martin: The entire church needs to step up. Come to a Council meeting and get involved. It is a small number of people that makes this church tick.

- George Popa moved to approve the proposed budget.
Second by Larry Guilfoile.
Motion passed.

Church Council Nominating Committee

Coleen Guilfoile explained the Nominating Committee for Church Council candidates. Trinity may nominate up six people for this committee, two of whom are Council representatives and the remainder form the congregation at large.

Nominations from the floor were solicited for the membership in the nominating committee. No nominations from the floor were made, so Church Council will appoint people.

Endowment Committee election

Nominations from the floor membership on the Endowment Committee were solicited. None were made.

- Jeff Fuge moved to approve the written ballot.
Second by Nancy Johnson.
Motion carried.

Cheryl Fish and Mike Leadholm were elected to the Endowment Committee.

Renovation Committee report

Jenna Wojcik, one of eight members on the renovation committee spoke. Jenna listed the members of the committee:

Cathy Johnson
Craig Martin
Jon Meredith
Matt Mitchell
Brian Nielsen
Terry Nordheim
Gail Seaver
Jenna Wojcik

The committee has met nine times so far. At these meetings the committed has accomplished the following

- Reviewed the 2019 Building Task Force recommendations
- Developed a program timeline
- Did a building walk-through with the 2019 Building Task Force and with the architect
- Chose *Progressive Architecture* as the building renovation program architect, authorized by church council on January 18, 2022
- Explored two options for building renovations.
Option 1 – stay within the building footprint.
Option 2 – expand the building footprint into the courtyard off the fellowship hall

Major work to be done includes:

- Replace the flat roof, which is leaking
- Replace non-functioning and outdated air conditioning units
- Replace the west boiler and hot water Heaters
- Update the main floor bathrooms to address ADA requirements
- Replace windows in the Kirvida lounge
- Install a security and fire alarm system

The building renovation timeline was reviewed. Construction is planned to begin in May 2023.

Next steps:

- Have EnerChange conduct an audit of the mechanical and electrical systems at Trinity to determine energy usage and energy savings alternatives. EnerChange is a nonprofit that conducts audits for other nonprofits.
- Work with Progressive Architecture to refine schematics and master plan

Trinity resolutions

- Coleen Guilfoile moved to approve the resolutions found in the annual report.
Second by Sherry Holt.
Motion carried.

Lord's prayer

Adjournment

- Larry Guilfoile moved to adjourn the meeting
Second by Clark Malcomson
Motion carried.

Submitted by Gary L. Peterson (Secretary)