

**MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
March 15, 2022**

Members present: Sherry Holt, Diane John (by telephone), Cathy Johnson, David Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Michelle Kok, Craig Martin, LeRoy Mitchell, Pastor Terry Nordheim, Jackie Otte, Gary Peterson, Linda Popa, George Popa,

Members absent: Pastor Karri Anderson, Colleen Guilfoile

Call to order

Craig Martin, president, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Devotions by Pastor Terry

Approval of the agenda

David Johnson requested Council discuss data analysis of Trinity records be added to the agenda.

- Linda Popa moved to approve the agenda.
Second by David Johnson.

Motion carried.

Approval of minutes

Cathy Johnson proposed the following text to amend the record of Cass Dennison's presentation:

Cass Dennison presented work done by the Community for Creation Care committee (CCC). Trinity has partnered with Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL) which provides leadership development and information to congregations to assist them with climate crisis concerns and action. The Community for Creation Care committee worked to certify us as a Climate Justice Congregation. This was a one-year certification process. The committee will work with youth leaders to see how they can incorporate them into its work – for example with our Adopt a Highway work. CCC supports the energy audit of Trinity's facility to be done by EnerChange in the next few weeks.

- Nancy Johnson moved to approve the minutes for the February 15 Church Council meeting with the amendments proposed by Cathy Johnson.

Second by Jackie Otte.

Motion carried.

Senior Pastor's report

A memo has been released to the congregation that describes relaxation of masking for worship attenders. Trinity did regular communion for the first time in two years last Sunday.

The annual synod assembly will be held in person on May 13 and 14 at St. Andrews in Mahtomedi. Trinity needs two lay delegates to attend the meeting.

Coffee conversation with the pastor has restarted at the church on Fridays at 9:00 AM. Wednesday evening discussions with the pastor are planned for after Easter.

Pastor Terry has a vacation scheduled for April 18-25.

In-person pastoral visitation at health care facilities is still limited, and often not permitted. Hospitals are still on covid protocol. Hospitals only allow a maximum of two designated visitors.

First communion class is being held for the first time in two years.

A request for letter of transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church to Faith Lutheran Church in Forest Lake has been received from Kim and Steve Kildal. Pastor Terry will inquire about the reason for the transfer.

This past Sunday Trinity postponed Second Sunday donation to the Doulos Discovery School of the Dominican Republic in favor of using the Second Sunday offering for Ukrainian relief. \$4,419 has been given so far for Ukrainian relief. More contributions are expected before the funds are matched at Trinity and sent to Lutheran World Relief to be matched again. Pastor Terry noted that there is a \$2,000 limit on the Trinity match, but requested that this limit be waived this one time so Trinity can take full advantage of the match by Lutheran World Relief. Funds for this match are available because Second Sunday offerings were not collected for many months because of the pandemic.

- David Johnson moved to remove the \$2,000 cap on the Second Sunday match this one time to provide for Ukraine relief.
Second by Cathy Johnson.
Motion carried.

Presentation by Matt Mitchell on the new Trinity web site

Matt walked the Council through the new Trinity web site. The site includes a members-only login. After login members will be able to view information that is not available to the general public. This includes a member portal that allows members to view giving statements, contact information, and pictures of individuals or family. The portal is accessed with a username and password. Members control what is and is not visible to other members on their portal.

Matt presented a table that summarized the number of views on web casts of Trinity's services.

Committee liaison report round table

Adult Education: Adult education will meet on the fourth Thursday of this month and next month.

Endowment: Officers were elected for the Endowment Committee. The officers are

Chairman: Todd Peterson

First vice-chairman: LeRoy Mitchell

Second vice-chairman: Cheryl Fish

Treasurer: Mike Leadholm

Secretary: Cinnamin Theisen

Endowment fund application sheets were approved.

Youth: Senior high lock-ins and retreats in the church are resuming.

Stewardship: The regular Stewardship meeting was visited by the Executive Committee. The group discussed what was heard at the annual meeting, including reengagement, communion, and giving.

Green Space: A committee report was presented for February. Coleen Guilfoile, David Johnson, and Cathy Johnson are Council Special Projects members, and will be working with the Green Space Committee. Congregation survey responses were divided into five categories. A seven-member Green Space task force is planned, with participants from a number of Trinity Committees. Church Council believes there is a need for representation from the Youth Committee (Michelle Kok) and from the Property Committee. Council also wants the task force to solicit two at-large members from the Trinity congregation. March 29 is the first task force meeting. Council wants to see an application for funds from Endowment to fund initial projects for the Green Space.

Witness and outreach: Trinity contributed \$762 to Hiram Lodge for the local food shelf. 20 new members were welcomed into Trinity. The committee is working out policies for the *Light One Candle* program. Crosses for visitation members will be funded through Witness and Outreach

- Jackie Otte moved to accept the minutes submitted this month by the Trinity Committees to the Church Council.

Second by Leroy Mitchell.

Motion carried.

Treasurer's report

Total January budgeted income: \$43,730

Total January actual income: \$33,291

Total January budgeted expenses: \$47,108

Total January actual expenses: \$45,043

Total February budgeted income: \$43,280

Total February actual income: \$54,907

Total budgeted income through February: \$87,010

Total actual income through February: \$88,199

Total February budgeted expenses: \$43,171

Total February actual expenses: \$42,007

Total budgeted expenses through February: \$90,279

Total actual expenses through February: \$87,051

Old business

No candidates for the Music Director have been found. Several churches in the local area are also looking.

The Executive Committee is recommending a pause on actively looking for a Music Director until we figure out how we are going to pay for it. The following paragraph is proposed for the Trinity newsletter.

Trinity has been actively looking for a Music Director for the past nine months with little success. This is not a unique position that Trinity finds itself in. Just in the Chisago Lakes area, there are three churches with open music positions. Additionally, with the approval of the 2022 budget, and no money being budgeted for a Music Director, the Church council has decided to PAUSE looking for a candidate to fill this position until funding for this position can be identified. The Church Council will re-evaluate the job description and explore new options for advertising this position to target a larger candidate pool, with hopes that the right candidate can be found when the funding is attained. If you have any questions, please reach out to a member of the Executive Committee.

Leroy Mitchell proposed that we need a special meeting of the Council to address how we are going to fund a music director position. He wants to add that the Council will have a special meeting to address this issue to the statement for the new letter. Council discussed these proposals.

- Jackie Otte moved to proceed with the verbiage in the newsletter as planned, and also place it in the Friday email blast.
Second by Craig Martin.
Motion carried with one dissent.
- Leroy Mitchell moved to have a special Council session to discuss how to fund a Music Director position.
Second by Jackie Otte.

Discussion: Council decided on a meeting date of March 29, at 7:00 PM.

Motion carried.

Green space task force.

- Sherry Holt moved that the Special Projects Committee complete an endowment application for 2022 for their first Green Space project.

Second by Nancy Johnson.

Motion carried.

New Business

Worship enhancement

We do not have a budget category for worship enhancements.

Sherry moved that we set up a designated account called Worship Enhancements and pull \$500 from the Holmquist bequest to fund it.

Second by David Johnson.

Motion carried.

Sunday conversations with Council

A member expressed a concern about decreasing membership and suggested a membership drive. Council emphasized that this is an issue that Council is aware of and interested in exploring ways to address this issue.

A member recalled a time when during a youth sports event members of a local church distributed water bottles with the church logo on it.

A member spoke about the new Lindstrom senior residence. There are some Trinity members who cannot attend church because there is no transportation.

Council retreat

Pastor Terry proposed that we have Cindy Halverson with Leaderwise do a workshop on Power and Rank within the Church from 9:00-2:30. She can do Saturday of April 23 or May 7 at the church. Cost is about \$1,600 plus mileage and materials. Money from dedicated funds is available for this workshop.

Currently all retreat centers in the area are booked.

In the last few years there has been a lot of staff turnover. Pastor Terry wants to do a workshop with Leaderwise on trust and transparency, with money coming out of the *Staff Needs* budget.

Pastor received an email from Justin Grimm at the Synod about Liberating Structures for Mission. It is an 18-month commitment to nine sessions of teaching, group work, resilience, and spiritual practices, plus coaching for church and Council. Cost is \$3,000 over two years.

Gail Seaver email

Gail Seaver has requested permission to work with Twyla and use the financial and membership data we have to do a trends analysis.

- David Johnson moved that Council authorize Trinity staff to give access to Trinity financial and membership records to Gail Seaver for purpose of data analysis regarding member and giving trends.
Second by Leroy Mitchell.

- Craig Martin moved to amend the motion by adding a limit of five years.
Second by Jackie Otte.
Motion to amend carried.

The amended motion now reads: Council authorizes Trinity staff to give access to five years of Trinity financial and membership records to Gail Seaver for purpose of data analysis regarding member and giving trends.

Motion carried with amendment

Emmy's full report was not include in the Trinity Annual Report. A copy of this report was distributed to Council.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by Diane John.
Second by Nancy Johnson.
Motion carried.

Submitted by Gary L. Peterson (Secretary)