

**Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

December 20, 2022 – 6:30 pm

Conference Room

**Members present:** Troy Zander (President), Bob Baumann, Bev Cross, Chris Berglund, Kyle Gebhardt, Sue Kolling, Matt McMerty, Dean Natwick, Colleen Peterson, Londa Rodahl, Danette Welsh and Pastor Mark Narum.

Devotions were given by Danette Welsh.

**Approval of Agenda:** Matt McMerty moved approval of the agenda with two additional items. Second by Colleen Peterson and carried.

**Acceptance of Consent Agenda:** Sue Kolling moved acceptance of the Consent Agenda. Second by Bob Baumann and carried.

**Financial Report:** Kyle Gebhardt reported November revenues of \$52,727.50, expenses of \$56,273.89, leaving a balance of \$-3,546.39. Year-to-Date: revenues \$678,809.15, expenses \$678,678.59, balance \$130.56. Danette Welsh moved that the Council received the financial report. Second by Chris Berglund and carried.

**Capital Campaign:** Pastor Mark referred us to the updated Statement of Activities, which indicates we have \$134,508.41 in the bank. The 2022 pledge letter results showed an increase in pledges of \$30,500. We have received \$13,125 from non-members.

**Dwelling in the World:** We split into two groups and discussed how our 2023 priorities for the council/congregation can be accomplished with our values and goals.

**Old Business:**

*Fire Detection/Alarm Task Force Update:* Colleen Peterson reported there was good attendance and discussion on the proposed fire detection/alarm system after the Wednesday service. This information is also on our website. The response after the 8:30 service was minimal and not many stayed following the 10:30 service. The task force plans to hold informational meetings again with the congregation on January 29 and February 1<sup>st</sup> in the Community Center. They will update where we are with the capital campaign and what will be needed for the fire detection/alarm system work.

*Property Issue:* Murray Sagsveen, Synod attorney, provided a draft affidavit intended to clarify the property line issue with our neighbor, Weiss Law Offices. With Council's approval, Murray would file the affidavit with the court. Pastor Mark suggested that Council President Zander's name be on the affidavit. Danette Welsh moved that the Council agreed to have the affidavit finalized, signed by the Council President and filed with the court. Second by Matt McMerty and carried.

*Call Process – what next?* Pastor Mark asked us to think about what we can do to welcome Pastor Martha HarriSon when she is installed at the Wednesday and Sunday services in February. He also noted that Pastor Lee Herberg's last Wednesday and Sunday serving us will be January 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Colleen Peterson and Troy Zander will work on plans for a "Thank You" event for Pastor Lee.

*Copier:* We reviewed the report Heather Baumann had written about the various copier companies she contacted and what they could offer Trinity. The Council had made a motion at the October meeting to go with Marco, Inc.; however, she received another bid from Liberty Business Systems that was lower. The cost will be \$285/month with a 5-year lease and service contract. Matt McMerty moved that we lease a copier from Liberty Business Systems. Second by Bob Baumann and carried.

**New Business:**

We moved 'Revisit the 3-year deferred maintenance plan' to the January agenda.

*Update on Facility Manager:* Kyle Gebhardt reported we had three excellent candidates for the position and John Britnell was chosen. He will begin January 9<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, Richard Lucas has come back to help temporarily.

*Trust Fund Applications:* Pastor Mark presented the proposed grant applications for submittal to the Trust Fund. The first one is for Pastor Martha HarriSon's moving expenses and the second is for a new desk for her. Sue Kolling moved that we support the grant applications for Pastor Martha's moving expenses and a new office desk for her. Second by Chris Berglund and carried.

*IRS Housing Allowance Statement for Pastor Mark:* This is a yearly statement that is required for him to be in compliance with the IRS tax code. Matt McMerty moved the approval of Pastor Mark Narum's housing allowance for 2023. Second by Kyle Gebhardt and carried.

*Budget:* Pastor Mark presented the proposed 2023 budget. Matt McMerty moved that we give 3½% raises to eligible employees. Second by Bev Cross and carried. Kyle Gebhardt moved that we increase the offering line item to balance the budget and forward the proposed 2023 budget to the congregation for adoption at the annual meeting. Second by Chris Berglund and carried.

*Moving Restricted Account:* Pastor Mark reported that Heather Baumann checked with several banking institutions regarding a better interest rate for our Restricted Account. She found we can move the account from Bravera (where the interest is almost nothing) into a money market account at VUE Credit Union at 1.8%. There is no penalty if we drop below the \$300,000 level during the year (earnings on \$300,000 would be \$5400). Matt McMerty moved that we move the Restricted Account from Bravera to VUE Credit Union. Second by Colleen Peterson and carried.

*Church Office Closure:* Concern was expressed about staff coming to work during inclement weather and putting themselves at risk. The current policy for closing the church office states that if the State Capitol offices close, Trinity's office will close. With the recent winter storms and less publicity of the Capitol closing due to remote working for state employees, it's harder to know if the Capitol closes. Therefore, it was decided that temporarily the head of staff pastor and Council president will jointly make the decision to close the office and/or cancel services. Our current policy will be reviewed after the first of the year.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted,  
Londa Rodahl, Secretary