

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 15 October 2017

Attendees: Todd Maloy, Ron Jones, Richard Leimgruber, Steve Paquette, Pastor Paul Bauermeister, Becky Luethy, Kim Stewart, Cindy Gesme, Mike Sharitz, Andrew Sobey, Nancy Buffum, Pastor Chris Naig, Rob Harper, Amy Jones, Morris Larson

Meeting Minutes: Recorded by Council rotation.

Todd Maloy called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM following the Gathering. The meeting began with an opening prayer led by Pastor Naig. Todd presented the agenda and asked if there were any additional topics to be included in the evening's schedule.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Chris spent much of his energy (aside from service and bible study prep) getting up to speed in the community. He has attended several synod, area, and ecumenical opportunities as well as having personal meetings with other ELCA pastors near us. Visitations, in-office sessions, and cottage meetings (the last wrapping up today) are also occupying his time as he looks to build relationships. Team and one-on-ones with staff and volunteers continue. One thing of note as he has reviewed our guiding documents is that Trinity's constitution (based on the ELCA template) has gotten a bit out of date. Council will review changes made by the church and take steps to include this in the annual meeting this coming January.

Treasurer's Report:

Steve Paquette reviewed the summary of our YTD results vs. budget and detailed highlights/lowlights in recent activity. We are continuing to track a surplus to the original budget through September. Receipts have rebounded to anticipated levels now that school has resumed. Initial budgeting for 2018 is now underway.

Discussion of reports received from Staff and Teams:

Worship & Music: The organ dedication concert (held earlier in the day) was a great success. Thank you to Jennifer Spohr for a great performance, highlighting the capabilities of the new board. Logistics around bringing the new sanctuary piano to Trinity are progressing, as are plans for an initial concert and fundraising to finance the purchase. It should be here in the next few weeks, below the cost and time estimates. Mike Sharitz will give an update to the congregation during pre-service announcements.

Missional Service: Rob Harper and Amy Jones provided an update regarding formalizing Trinity's relationship with Lantern Hill. Council discussed a draft of a partnership statement with the goal of having this finalized prior to their director, Abby Williams', visit in December. See "Stewardship" below for comments related to a new Time and Talent survey.

OSC Committee: Morris Larson reported that all is well from a facilities perspective. Continuing to see a lot of traffic flow through Trinity's halls. Most weekends now booked through April. No roof leaks from the "big storm" a couple weeks ago, but an interesting new drip over the sanctuary needs to be researched. Thanks to Jon Trettel and Ron Jones for installing a new utility sink in the janitor's closet. Riverside Baptist has now relocated, but another ministry has already shown interest in taking their place.

Mike Sharitz followed up on a previous Council discussion regarding the OSC structure. In brief, our current bylaws were written to split what is now one group into separate committees by function: Facilities, Finance, Stewardship, & Endowment. While Endowment is active and successful as a separate body, the others are currently rolled together with the Exec Team and Council serving as the backstop for decision making. We will look to re-form these standing committees going forward, with the aims of creating efficiency and including more Trinity members in service and governance. See "Stewardship" below for related comments.

Other written staff and committee reports were reviewed with no additional discussion.

In terms of staff positions in general, the Council discussed where we stand at present in terms of office and ministry needs as Pastor Chris settles into his new role and we prepare our 2018 budget. The staff continues to do a great job and works exceptionally well together in serving Trinity and its members. While there is no expectation that significant changes are needed, the interim status of positions carrying forward from the call process will need to be reassessed and formalized. This may also include creation of a staff liaison / Mutual Ministry area as researched prior. It is still too early in Pastor Chris's tenure for this work, but the framework is being set during his one-on-ones with staff as he better learns everyone's role and responsibilities and we work overall to define what is needed to support our ministry priorities.

Old Business:

Council Retreat: Council members met for an offsite retreat and workday on Saturday, 10/14 from 8:00 – 2:00. In addition to fellowship and team-building, this provided an unhurried opportunity for brainstorming and prioritization. Results of these discussions will flow through budget planning and stewardship activities as well as the annual congregational meeting.

OKTOBERFEST: Down to the details for what should be a great event on Sunday, 10/29. Volunteers and donations are meeting expectations, as we work to tweak a few things and build on last year's success.

TLC Website updates: Ongoing. Several areas have provided comment as to what changes they might like to see to the website. Todd shared information from ParishSoft. This is a service that Renato Cataldo brought to our attention as a potential "off the shelf" solution to some of our questions regarding online payments, etc. Council agreed that we should proceed with due diligence on this. Pastor Chris will bring this and some other thoughts for tactical changes (updating images, etc.) to the staff.

New Business:

Stewardship 2017: As mentioned above, it is our aim to re-establish a year-around Stewardship committee under the OSC as described in our bylaws. In lieu of this, this year's campaign will be chaired by the Council and Exec Team. Todd will kick-off the campaign (***Growing Our Faith***) in his article for the November Trinitel. Ron Jones, Claudia Pico, and Mike Sharitz will also work with the office staff on logistics, with a letter, pledge card, and other materials to be created. The Mission area is helping to create a Time and Talents survey to be included highlighting areas for members to plug in their gifts to our ministries. "Temple talks" during the service are tentatively slated for 11/12, 11/19, & 12/3.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.