

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 21 January 2018

Attendees: Todd Maloy, Ron Jones, Richard Leimgruber, Steve Paquette, Pastor Paul Bauermeister, Becky Luethy, Kim Stewart, Cindy Gesme, Claudia Pico, Mike Sharitz, Nancy Buffum, Pastor Chris Naig, Kathy Gaal

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 devotion and prayer 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 thanked all that provided cover when he was called away unexpectedly last week to attend his grandmother's funeral. Special thanks to Pastor Kotovski for stepping in to the pulpit on short notice. Easter prep underway. Continuing area and local ecumenical opportunities – look for a cross-denomination canned food challenge in March. Meetings with staff and volunteers are ongoing and productive – looking forward to his first Annual Meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Steve Paquette reported final financial results for 2017. We finished the year with a surplus to budget of just over \$10,000 due primarily to reduced expenses and strong preschool revenue. Late push in December from year-end letter and stewardship efforts put us just over the top. December 31 offering posted to 2018 so that should help get us off to a good start in the new year. Budget presentations to the congregation provided good feedback and helped us complete the forecast for next week's Annual Meeting.

Discussion of reports received from Staff and Teams:

Worship & Music: Advent and Christmas services received great feedback. Blue Christmas and Epiphany bonfire both well attended. Continuing plans for Lent & Easter as well as work related to identifying a new music ministry leader (see "New Business" below). Thank you to Dr. Bonnie Wilson for a great job temporarily pinch hitting on the organ and piano.

Missional Service: Kathy Gaal reported from the Missions team. Somewhat light activity to start the year as they await confirmation of the 2018 budget proposals. Informational session coming up between services to glean additional feedback from the congregation and engage more volunteers. Meals Do Matter prep session on January 28th open to all.

Children's Ministries: Preschool enrollment is off to a tremendous start – great interest from returning students and the community. Sunday School and Confirmation are both back in session. Involvement in Youth Quake (slated for January) was cancelled, but other youth events are expected to pick up in February and beyond. Pancake breakfast to support Lantern Hill scheduled for Sunday, February 11th.

OSC Committee: Facilities remained very busy over the holidays. Remaining theater lights in the sanctuary were replaced during Advent decorating. No other significant facility needs or work currently underway.

Endowment Committee: Endowment Committee put forth their recommended distributions for 2017. These are:

- \$1500 Lutheran Senior Services, Adopt-A-Senior Program
- \$2000 Lutheran School of Theology Chicago for scholarships
- \$500 Lutheran Campus Ministry for snacks
- \$1000 Russian Companion Synod, salary for Pastor Lapencecko
- \$2000 to Trinity facilities for flooring in the office areas.

Members discussed briefly and unanimously approved.

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

Old Business:

Annual Meeting: Plans are set for January 28th. Proposed budget and nomination info has been shared with the congregation. Feedback has been positive; no new business or other reports needed for the meeting. Expecting a good turnout to complete our work and, more importantly, share some time in community. Todd and Cindy will be rolling off after the meeting, with the new Council to be installed during services on February 4th.

2018 Council Retreat: Ron presented the agenda and other logistics for the Council Retreat at the Mercy Center (off Geyer Rd) February 9-10. Goal will be to further build out the priority areas identified by the current group and congregation as well as to look at longer term planning.

New Business:

As reported since the last meeting, Jennifer Spohr informed the Council of her decision to resign her position as Organist and Interim Music Director effective December 31st. Jennifer had been an important part of Trinity's family for several years, sharing with us her many gifts in directing the choir and leading our music ministry. She will be missed. A small steering group from the Worship Team and Council (led by Mike Sharitz and Steve Paquette) has been working with Pastor Chris to update the job description for the Music Director role based on Trinity's needs going forward. The position summary and budgeted amount were presented to Council for discussion. The new document and compensation were unanimously approved and the hiring team authorized to move forward in identifying candidates and, if possible, make an offer based on these parameters.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.