

**Trinity Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2017**

Date: March 19, 2017

Attendees: Pastor John Mann, Todd Maloy, Ron Jones, Richard Leimgruber, Mike Sharitz, Steve Paquette, Paul Bauermeister, Andrew Sobey, Nancy Buffum, Claudia Pico, Becky Luethy, Kim Stewart, Morris Larson, Chuck Parrott, Don Stuewe, Christie Tietjen, Larry Tietjen, Pat Irmscher, Barb Trettel, Jon Trettel

Meeting Minutes: Recorded by Kim Stewart/Todd Maloy.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. The meeting began with a devotion and opening prayer by Pastor John Mann.

TLC Updates and Discussions:

Goals/Committee Assignments:

Todd reviewed the Council goals that were discussed in last meeting's member introductions. These include: keeping the momentum of our progress going, promoting more unity in the church, helping Trinity prepare for the next chapter of our church history.

Members of the Council have all been assigned to a Trinity committee where they will serve as liaisons between the council and the committee. We still need additional representation on the Adult Ed committee so if you would be willing to be this liaison, contact Todd. We are also looking into forming a Youth Ministry/Preschool MIT and having a liaison serve on this committee.

Updates from Staff and Teams:

Worship and Music MIT: Mike Sharitz reported that the committee would like the choir to perform at both services on Easter. They are still planning the 7:30 AM service. There is potential to use the music area and stage (left side of the church) for readings and other purposes during Easter season. Moving instruments IS NOT a message about the future of contemporary worship at Trinity. Rather, just a way to continue to utilize all of our sanctuary space.

Missional Service: Christie Tietjen reported that the participation in the evening's earlier meeting was helpful. The committee is interested in input

from the congregation on the direction the committee should proceed. Our mission ministry needs participation to make it a success.

OSC / Finance Committees: Steve Paquette presented a summary of our YTD budget results and highlights from February. Receipts are better than budget due in large part to receipts from the Preschool. Expenses are less than budget due to timing. "One of our Own" account is set up and has been utilized.

Morris Larson reported that the Altar Guild did some spring cleaning and, thanks to efforts of OSC members, now has hot water upstairs. The lighting on the back lot has been addressed, and additional solar lights are being tested for the lot. A plumber will be contacted to deal with the drain in the small sink in the kitchen. We may need to hire someone to do upkeep on the baseball field.

Becky Luethy asked about the status of the mouse mitigation. Morris reported that all holes have been plugged and sweeps added to the doors. They haven't seen a mouse since and have not called Rottler. Todd recommended a proactive approach to this issue and asked Morris to make the call to Rottler regardless.

Endowment Committee: Written report from committee (submitted for inclusion in minutes). The Committee is working with Harry Mueller to plan an Endowment Educational Session and Reception at Bellerive Country Club in May. Stephen Phelps, Central States Regional Gift Planner, will be leading an Adult Forum discussion on Endowment and Estate Planning on September 10. A Tax Planning session is tentatively planned for November 19. The committee will be reviewing and updating Endowment brochures working with the church office.

Adult Education: Don Stuewe reported that committee would like to suspend the Adult Education program during the months of July and August and have a reduced schedule in December. Todd told him that the committee can make this decision, but that the schedule update was appreciated. Don also went through his current list of presenters. He welcomes ideas for teachers from inside or outside our Trinity community. He is also looking for a council liaison for the committee and volunteers to help host on Sunday (room set-up, coffee making, introduction & IT). There was some discussion as to whether or not coffee needs to be offered in 123.

Preschool / Children's / Youth Ministry: Amy submitted a staff report and is on spring break.

Small Groups / Fellowship MIT: No report. Todd has talked with Sandi Thorp and communicated the Council's desire that this ministry area be reinvigorated given its importance to our church and our ministries. Some potential options were discussed, and Larry Tietjen shared some of his personal experience with Small Group ministry.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor reported that the Area 10 Ministry Meeting will be held at Trinity on Sunday, March 26th. This meeting is for the Lay and Clergy in our ministry area. The public is invited to attend from 3:00 PM–6:00 PM on Sunday. Monday morning's session is for the rostered clergy and will be from 10:00 AM–1:00 PM. If you would like to see where the church is going, please attend. Christie Tietjen suggested specifically inviting our 2017 Synod Assembly Delegates to attend.

Pastor reported that over the past nine months, the Synod has created a committee to assess ways to serve congregations in transition. He provided input to these efforts and has recently been asked to lead this group in the St Louis area. They are proposing to develop a team of Pastors and other specialists who would potentially serve multiple congregations using a "vice-pastoral model." This proposal is to be discussed at the Area 10 meeting next weekend.

Pastor Mann was asked to address a flyer that was distributed through Lutheran School of Theology (LST) listing him as the Intentional Interim Pastor at Living Christ in Florissant. Many Trinity members received this mailing, creating confusion and concern. Pastor stated that the information was incorrect. He was recently asked to serve as described above. As such, he will meet with churches that have this need, attend their Council meetings, recruit resources for transition teams, and coordinate the new teams' services. He will also provide emergency pastoral services. He reasserted his full-time commitment to Trinity and will remain our interim, not preaching at any other churches. Communication to Trinity was planned for the April newsletter; however, it was recommended by Claudia Pico that we communicate this information with the church to help dispel rumors.

Becky Luethy asked about the flyer itself, which advertised that Pastor Mann would teach a class at Trinity. She asked for details, including who would be given the fees raised by the class tuition. Pastor had agreed to an LST request, but does not know how the school works and was not contacted before the mailing went out. He was asked to follow up with details and reminded that Trinity resources used for such events should be pre-approved.

Old Business:

Mutual Ministry Committee Update:

Todd has met with the staff informally about this potential liaison/support committee and researched the set up and charter steps. Model language and other resources are available through the ELCA and various synods, but we will need a defined purpose unique to Trinity and our ministries. Staff input and buy-in is also a must. Chuck Parrott commented that he had found some information on a similar TLC committee that had been used in the past—he will share with Todd. Position summaries and roles & responsibility statements will be gathered as a next step. Richard Leimgruber, Nancy Buffum, Morris Larson and Pastor Mann will also work on the establishment of this committee. It is agreed that having this in place for when the new pastor arrives would be extremely helpful.

New Business:

Future Council/Gathering schedule:

Since our April meeting falls on Easter Sunday, we will not meet on this date. At this point, we will not have an April Meeting unless business dictates that one is necessary. Written reports will be shared as normal. Starting in May, we will continue meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Going forward we will re-structure. MIT team meetings will be optional, beginning at 5:00 PM. Dinner will be at 6:00 PM and Council will follow at 7:00 PM. Mike Sharitz mentioned exploring the possibility of adding a contemporary worship component to this Sunday night schedule. Details will go out via the Trinitell newsletter.

Potential Trinity Event:

A "Trinity Event" had been tentatively slated for April. Morris will confirm available dates, and, if still free, Council will plan a Chili Cook-Off or other fellowship event for later in the month. More information to come, but this would be a fun activity for the entire congregation and an opportunity to visit with Council members. Claudia Pico agreed to help lead the organization of such an event.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.