

# Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 17 November 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 6:48 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 spent much of his energy (aside from service and bible study prep) on visitations and building community. Continuing area and local ecumenical opportunities – look for a cross-denomination canned food challenge in early '18. Confirmation kids will wrap up their first semester this coming week. Meetings with staff and volunteers are ongoing and productive.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Steve Paquette reviewed the summary of our YTD results vs. budget and detailed highlights/lowlights in activity through November. While operating expenses remain in check, giving has been following the previously mentioned trend and is now below anticipated levels. Increased preschool and other revenue still have us at a small surplus through month-end. A strong December is needed to meet the budget and cover the other one-off costs related to our pastoral call this year (note: December 31 offering will post in 2018). A letter will go out to the congregation thanking them for their generosity and support in 2017. It will include a reminder to complete their pledges (if they are able) and to help us finish the year strong.

## **Discussion of reports received from Staff and Teams:**

**Worship & Music:** Thank you to Jennifer and the choir for a fantastic concert on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Final preparations are now underway for the remaining Advent and Christmas services – anticipating a great Christmas week. Special Epiphany bonfire slated for January 6<sup>th</sup>. Note: Pastor Chris and Jennifer will both be out December 31<sup>st</sup> – Pastor Boardman (Lutheran Campus Ministries) is pinch hitting.

**Missional Service:** Rob Harper and Amy Jones summarized Lantern Hill activities. Over \$5000 was raised through the trivia night, wine & cheese reception, and Kids Night Out. Partnership statement was presented to the congregation and signed during services on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Children's Ministries:** Big thanks to Amy and Vickie (and a whole host of others) for a great Children's Christmas Program. The congregation was treated to a super program with involvement and engagement from all our youth. Youth Quake event coming up in January. Preschool Christmas programs are later this week - all are invited to attend.

**OSC Committee:** Facilities remain very busy. Work on the lights near the sanctuary peak is complete, as is seasonal decorating. Plumbing issues in the gym have been remediated. Thanks to all that help with these and other facility issues as they arise.

**Endowment Committee:** Endowment balance is now topping \$200k. Committee will make proposal for 2017 distributions soon.

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

**Old Business:**

**2018 Budget / Ministry Plan:** The 2018 budget was presented to the congregation for their input on December 3<sup>rd</sup> between services. Feedback was positive; no material suggestions or changes to content. Still some questions around expected giving as pledges are slow to materialize. No other significant changes are expected but we will remain flexible should a need or opportunity arise in the coming weeks. Meeting with the congregation on January 7<sup>th</sup> will be the final before publication leading up to the Congregational Meeting.

**Constitution / Bylaw Changes:** As previously reported, our guiding documents (i.e. Trinity's constitution & bylaws) have gotten a bit out of date compared to the ELCA template. These updates, while relatively minor, but should be maintained periodically. Rather than rush into the upcoming annual meeting, this work will be tabled to 2018 to provide time for a deeper review and congregational input.

**2018 Council Retreat:** Following up on previous discussions, the team is tentatively slating February 9-10 for a Council retreat. 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. Location and other specifics still TBD.

**New Business:**

No new business was brought forward during the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM to a brief closed session related to staff and salary considerations for the 2018 budget.