

**Trinity Lutheran Church
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
May 26, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Doug Bonsall.

The following Executive Committee members were present:

J. Stewart Hardy
Craig Erdman Michael Schwalm
Bill Foos

Excused Absence: Daryl Ackerman

Opening Prayer was lead by Doug Bonsall

New Business:

1. A youth group from a church from Hickory, North Carolina, is going to be in the area June 19 -21 for a work project in the Annville area, and would like to stay overnight at Trinity on Friday and Saturday nights, and worship with us on Sunday morning. 14 youth and 4 adults. Pastor Hardy and Peter Fox have given their consent. Our only question is the fee. The Senior Pastor and Office Manager can waive up to 50% of the fee without going to council (\$160 for two nights). However, after it was discussed with Pastor Brock (Pastor Hardy was not here for the discussion about fees), the suggestion is to waive all fees. They will be contacting the YMCA for permission to use their shower facilities as we only have one shower. They plan to arrive Friday evening, go to Hershey Park on Saturday morning, then return to sleep on Saturday evening. There is no Sunday School in that room on June 20, so there will not be a conflict for room use and no set-up for the sextons to deal with.

Motion-Craig Erdman moved *that we allow the Youth Group to stay with the provision that they complete the Rental Agreement, we will waive any fees in excess of \$1.00, with the \$1.00 to be donated by Mr. Erdman.* The motion was seconded by Bill Foos.

Discussion-The question was raised as to whether or not we examine these requests as they come in, or establish policy. The type of trip (service project oriented or not) was discussed. Pastor Hardy pointed out that this was the third such request he has had from a youth group in the last twenty years. Decision was to handle each request on a case by case basis.

MOTION CARRIED

2. The second item is about Thrivent using Trinity for an educational event for their members on June 11, 3-5 p.m. They do not want to pay the fee, which would be \$300. Only council can waive, and they will need to know before June 8. Since the original request, Thrivent has secured Trinity, Lemoyne for their June 11 event, and the use of Trinity is no longer necessary for that date. Thrivent likes to rotate the location of their meetings, and has requested permission to offer this type of event at Trinity in the future.

The educational event is *An Economic and Investment Outlook and Update*. A Thrivent Regional Vice President will present the program, which explains what is going on in the financial markets, and how it affects people and their investments. They will not be promoting or selling products. If possible, they would like to place an announcement in our bulletin alerting Thrivent members and others to the program.

The discussion centered around whether or not this was a “lead generator” and self promoting or not. It was pointed out that Thrivent has matched funds with the Youth Group at Trinity on past occasions. It was further pointed out that they must give money back to congregations to maintain their Tax Break Status. Also discussed was whether or not this type of program fit the Vision and Mission of Trinity. Budgeting and Stewardship are two areas of concern, and would be well served to be included in such a presentation.

Motion-Craig Erdman moved that we *Consider and Review all future specific requests based on; 1) the content of the educational program and how it relates to the Vision and Mission of Trinity Lutheran Church, and 2) the availability of space.* The motion was seconded by Bill Foos.

Motion Carried

3. There was a discussion with regard to the Strategic Planning Committee, its function moving forward and the proposed mission statement.

In the wake of the discussion regarding the Strategic Planning Committee and its role moving forward at last month’s council meeting, and after some discernment, the following points were made:

There is a need for a body to carry out the Vision & Mission of Trinity Lutheran Church, and measure our progress towards these ideals as a congregation.

- Delegated to the SPC and directed by the Executive Committee?
- Council should have oversight
- Due to the term limits of the President, VP and council members, a standing body would provide continuity and consistency towards the fulfillment of the Vision and Mission

Church council should be more proactive in carrying out the Vision and Mission

- We should try to better match council nominees based on their gifts and talents

With the advent of a new Senior Pastor at Trinity, there will be much change

It was also determined that with a few word edits, the current proposed Mission Statement for the SPC was better suited as the Mission Statement for Congregation Council. Bill Foos will incorporate the input for edits to create a draft for the June Council meeting for review. There

will be no action requested until the Fall of 2009.

4. Doug Bonsall reported that he and Craig Erdman have almost completed the forming of the Call Process Team. The team will be tasked with outlining the actual call process for a new Senior Pastor. The team may consist of Doug Bonsall, Craig Erdman, Chuck Armstrong and Barbara Kriebel

5. The July Council and Committee Calendar review and training event was discussed. The event would be hosted on July 13th and would provide an opportunity for committee chairs and council members review the calendar and discuss events for the upcoming year. This would also allow for the committee chairs to give a short talk and share their progress on the development of their mission statement.

6. Bill Foos discussed the conversations he has held with Joel Nye, and his concern that he has not been given the opportunity to fulfill and expand his duties as outlined in his job description. He feels that he has been held back by Paul Hensel.

The resulting action is that Property Committee will review the job descriptions for all property staff positions, to include Paul Hensel's position as Property and Financial Administrator. A&P Chair Craig Erdman and Senior Pastor J. Stewart Hardy were in agreement with this approach to be taken by Property in reevaluating these job descriptions to better reflect actual duties.

Craig Erdman moved that we adjourn at 7:10, Bill Foos seconded.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted;

Michael Schwalm, Secretary