

**Trinity Lutheran Church
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 5, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Doug Bonsall.

The following Executive Committee members were present:

Craig Erdman	Michael Schwalm
Bill Foos	Daryl Ackerman

Call to Order & Opening Prayer-Doug Bonsall

Communication from Lutheran Camping Corporation *IMAGINE* campaign

Doug spoke with Dave Clark to follow up on the Imagine campaign presentation from Herm Haldeman last fall. Daryl reported that the campaign is at 50% of the minimum of \$1.6 million. He was hoping to hear from Trinity as to whether or not to allow them to speak to the congregation on the Imagine Campaign. Discussion was held about the donation that Trinity gave to Nawakwa for the Waste Water project of \$5,000 a year for 3 years.

Discussion was held as to whether we give a donation as a church and allow the solicitation of our members through a Trinity Parish Article, or have the donations from the congregation to be collected by Trinity and send one gift. The suggestion of temple talks to highlight what an impact Nawakwa has had on people over the years. The deadline for the Trinity parish is the 10th of each month. Pastor Hardy will coordinate the dates.

MOTION: Bill Foos made the motion to afford the Lutheran Camping Corporation the opportunity to solicit Trinity Lutheran Church financial support for their *IMAGINE* campaign. The motion was seconded and carried.

MOTION: Craig Erdman made the motion for Trinity Church to pledge \$15,000 to the *Imagine* campaign over three years, (\$2,500 in 2009, \$5,000 in 2010, \$5,000 in 2011, and \$2,500 in 2012) from the church budget. Bill Foos seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

**Request for Waiver of Church Use Fees for American Guild of Organists (AGO) meetings - from
Tim Koch**

There was some question as to what Tim is requesting, waiver of fees for the monthly AGO meetings and/or for the AGO's 2011 convention?

Motion: Bill Foos moved to allow the waiver of all fees in excess of \$1.00 for the AGO Steering Committee monthly meetings upon completion and signing of the Rental Agreement. Craig Erdman seconded the motion.
The motion carried.

Discussion: Doug Bonsall will communicate the action taken via a letter to Tim Koch.

Motion: Mike Schwalm moved that we charge the usual building use fees as follows:
Fellowship Hall-\$300 for up to 4 Hours for up to 75 People
Classrooms-\$20 per Hour; \$80 per day

Craig Erdman seconded. Motion carried.

ADDENDUM 8.18.2009 - After Tim Koch provided clarification on his request, all Council Executive Committee members were polled and responded. A unanimous decision was reached to waive Trinity's stated building use fees for use of the fellowship hall for a luncheon and meeting and of the nave for a rehearsal and recital during the 2011 AGO convention.

If the AGO wishes to make some contribution for the use of the facilities as Tim Koch has suggested, the contribution will be accepted but doing so is not a condition of this action.

By consensus, it was agreed to decline the requests for waiver of building use fees submitted by the Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning (Messiah Village) and by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Motion: Bill Foos made the motion that Thrivent be permitted to hold the workshop on October 13th, 2009 if they agree to pay applicable fees and sign the Rental Agreement. Craig Erdman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Church Vocation Loan – attached report/motions from Educational Assistance Committee

Recommendation that the Educational Assistance Committee serve as an advisory committee reporting directly to Council rather than being a subcommittee of the Educational Ministries Committee and the chair of the Educational Assistance Committee is to be appointed by the Council President.

MOTION: Move that Congregation Council affirm the action of the Educational Assistance Committee to provide a loan from the Church Vocation Loan Fund in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the period of September 2009 through August 2010 to Lori Anne McBride. **The approval of the motion by Council is not necessary since this action is within the authority of the Educational Assistance Committee.**

MOTION: Move that Policy Page 5.10 be amended to provide for Church Vocation Loans to be forgiven at the rate of 10% per year of part time ministry in the Lutheran Church or its affiliates. **This was a recommendation that part-time vocation loans will be considered. The question of what is part time was raised. Full time staff is easier to track. The motion was not seconded or approved but returned to the Educational Assistance Committee with the recommendation that the current policy remain in place - any person receiving a loan from this fund may have their loan forgiven at the rate of 20% for each year of employment in a church vocation, either full-time or part-time,**

MOTION: Move that subsequent loans to previously approved loan recipients be approved based on annual reviews by the Educational Assistance Committee and reported to Congregation Council. **Motion not necessary as this is covered under Policy Page 1.30.15, II section F. A request will be made to the Educational Assistance Committee that the appropriate policy page(s) be updated so that the annual report of the committee is made by the September Council Meeting to facilitate budget development for the coming year.**

Further the Executive Committee recommended to the Educational Assistance Committee that Policy Page 5.10 contain a statement that Church Vocation Loans are the only type of loan available by Trinity, and do away with page 5.11 for the undergraduate loans. Doug Bonsall will communicate these recommendations to the committee chair.

Strategic Planning Report – “How to Reinforce Mission Statement”

Consider assigning responsibilities for implementation: In what manner should we be carrying out the recommendations on page 3 of the document?

Section 1) Provide a curriculum and mentoring through structured classes and different means of educational programs. We should try to develop support “modules” for individuals to reference.
Charge- Educational Ministry Committee

Section 2&3) Establish a mentorship program and helping them accountable to becoming a Disciple. Small groups might be an appropriate vehicle to accomplish this. Who would carry this out? Would Judy Collins be engaged to help find mentors? The suggestion was made to send Judy and a team on a retreat to help develop this. Pastor Hardy will speak with Judy Collins to facilitate. The Vicar? Identify individuals to help mentor.

Section 4) Educational Ministry Committee? Are they appropriately resourced to do this? Would it be appropriate to have the Chair of Strategic Planning to go speak with Education? Bill agreed to do so. Craig suggested that he and Doug also attend that meeting to show support and solidarity.

Section 5) It is a recommendation for ongoing as individuals. Pastor Hardy recommended that we add this to the petitions of the prayers of the Church each week. CHARGE-Pastoral Staff

Congregation Council Mission Statement

- 1) *Review/editing of draft previously presented*
- 2) *Appropriate location in Policy Manual (1.40.1 & 1.40.2 are only Council pages and define election procedures) Most council duties are defined in the By Laws. Upon adoption, the Council Mission Statement will be included in the manual as its own page.*

Executive Committee Policy Page 1.30.5

- 1) *Review/update*
- 2) *Does Executive Committee need its own Mission Statement separate from that of Congregation Council?* The discussion was held that the Council Mission Statement would suffice as the Executive Committee IS and Acts as Council between meetings.
- 3) *Consider membership of committee when one person serves in multiple positions that are defined as members as Executive Committee?* The suggestion was made that if the situation arises, Council can appoint a Council Member to fill the 7th Seat.

MOTION: Craig Erdman made the motion to recommend to Council that should a member of the Executive Committee serve in multiple positions designated for Executive Committee that the Council will appoint a Council Member to fill out the 7th position. The verbiage on Policy Page 1.30.5 will be changed accordingly. Doug will prepare the language and submit the page at the next Council meeting for approval

Daryl Ackerman seconded the motion. Motion Carried

Succession Planning/Terms limits for church committee members

- 1) *Review discussion at July 13th Leadership event*

Discussion about getting more people involved and groomed for chair positions. In the past, there were term limits of two consecutive 3-year terms for all standing committee members. This would help with recruitment of new committee members as positions now held by long term committee members become vacant. . Suggestion was made to check the ELCA Language and implement it in the Policy Manual of Trinity. This provision was previously in the Policy Manual but the administration of the term limits provision was very difficult. Action; Doug will talk to Nancy Martin and find out where the term limits were located in the Policy Manual, compare them to the ELCA verbiage, and move toward reinstatement of the term limits language.

- 2) *Consider assigning study of issue to Strategic Planning Task Force* Not Necessary

Future Meetings of Executive Committee

The question was asked “Should a standing date be considered for regular meetings of the Congregation Council Executive Committee?”. Traditionally the summer months are when the Executive Committee is more in demand. Discussion was that it would be easier to schedule regular meetings so the group can be more proactive in holding the committees accountable. The decision was reached that we schedule the Executive Committee Meetings for the 1st Thursday of each month but to meet only as needed.

Other Business, if any

MOTION: Craig Erdman made the motion to accept Reverend Dr. Alan Wenrich, his wife Joan Wenrich, daughter Melinda Wenrich-Bialousz, and granddaughter Lily Grace Bialousz into membership into Trinity by Letter of Transfer from Zion Lutheran Church, Hummelstown, PA. Daryl Ackerman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adjournment with prayer 9:25pm

Mike Schwalm, Secretary

