

Minutes of the Special Congregation Meeting - 3/01/09

The meeting was called to order at 12:23 p.m. by President Doug Bonsall. President Bonsall offered an opening prayer.

Mr. Craig Erdman, head teller, reported that there was in attendance an excess of the required quorum.

President Bonsall informed the assembled that according to the bylaws special meetings can be held for specifically called purposes. The only item of action to be taken up today is the review and approval of the proposed Vision/Mission Statement and Guiding Principles of the congregation that have been under process for the past eighteen months. That resolution will be presented by the Strategic Planning Team. Following that will be a report by Frank Leber, the chair of the Transition Team, who will explain the process that Trinity will be going through as we face the retirement of Pastor Hardy, the appointment of an interim senior pastor, the appointment of a call committee, and eventually the call of a new senior pastor. There will also be a report by the co-chair of the Retirement Planning Task Force, Barbara Kriebel.

President Bonsall introduced Mike Schwalm, secretary, Nancy Martin, assistant to the secretary, and Ron Katzman, who has been appointed as parliamentarian.

Mr. Bill Foos was recognized to present the following resolution.

MOTION:

WHEREAS, allowed and directed in the Constitution and Bylaws of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania (the "church"), section C4.05, that this congregation shall, from time to time, adopt a mission statement which will provide specific directions for its programs; and

WHEREAS, the church congregation acknowledges its inherent responsibility to support and participate in helping to carry out the mission; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the congregation of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, gathered this 1st day of March, 2009, that it accepts and approves the wording of the ***Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles*** document as approved by the church Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the church that its Council, staff, committees, church-sponsored organizations and members will endeavor to their utmost ability to carry out the Mission in order to achieve the Vision of ***Disciples in the Making, Making***

Disciples, which is hereby adopted.

MISSION

Called by the Holy Spirit to be Christ's Disciples, we seek to equip ourselves and others to live like Christ, and to be sent into the world proclaiming and living the Good News as witnesses of God's transforming love.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

While remaining true to our Reformation heritage that forgiveness and salvation are gifts to us through God's grace alone, and all good works are our thankful response to that grace through the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we uphold the following as pathways to accomplish our mission:

- We will provide inspiring worship services, offering a variety of opportunities to experience God's grace through Word and Sacrament.
- We will develop loving relationships with our sisters and brothers in this church family, as well as within our own families, and will practice genuine hospitality to those who differ from us.
- We will create small groups where a sense of belonging in community is nurtured through fellowship, and where spiritual growth occurs through Bible study, faith conversation, and prayer.
- We will establish a gift-based ministry that helps individuals identify, develop, and share their spiritual gifts and talents.
- We will implement a need-oriented evangelism and social ministry that is both concerned with—and uses our resources to meet—the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our local and global neighbors.
- We will foster an atmosphere of passionate spirituality that encourages each of us to live out our faith with commitment, fire, and enthusiasm.
- We will utilize a leadership model that empowers, supports, motivates, and mentors individuals to be all God wants them to be.
- We will build effective structures, adapting to changing needs and new ideas as we continually discern God's will for us in this place.
- We will commit ourselves to practice stewardship of the earth, time, talent, and treasure.
- We will work for justice and peace in our community and in our world.

Mr. Jeff Weaver moved to adopt the resolution.

Mr. Foos explained that the resolution came from the input from the congregation in answering six questions: 1) Think back over our congregation's history. What things have happened that have contributed notably to God's dream for this place? 2) Who are the people within the congregation that we are presently reaching? 3) Who are the people outside the congregation that we are presently reaching? 4) What are Trinity's strengths? 5) What are Trinity's weaknesses? 6) If God has His way with

Trinity over the next 5 years, what would be different? Much time and effort has gone into the development of the Mission Statement and Guiding Principles.

Mr. Bohls called the question.

The motion carried.

President Bonsall thanked Mr. Foos and the members of the Strategic Planning Team who have spent countless hours in developing this Vision/Mission Statement. The process is just beginning. On Saturday there will be a congregation leader retreat to start the process of looking at what it means for us personally to be disciples, what it means to be a disciple for those who have been called into a position of leadership, and what it means for us as a congregation to be a faithful disciple of Christ. All are invited to attend this retreat.

President Bonsall recognized Mr. Frank Leber to report on the Transition Team. The other members of the team are Janet Preble, Judy Hunter, and Shaun Eisenhauer. They began their responsibilities as members of Pastor Hardy's mutual ministry committee, then assumed the responsibility of the parish's transition committee as a result of Pastor Hardy's request and council's approval. The purpose of the Transition Team is to provide oversight through the three phases leading up to the call and installation of a new senior pastor. The first phase is the phase we are in leading up to Pastor Hardy's retirement. They are responsible for supporting the congregation and the Congregation Council in terms of governance and related transitional issues which take us through the relationships as we go through the transition process.

Toward the end of the year the process will be underway to the appointment of an interim senior pastor. This is an intentional interim whose purpose is to conduct the responsibilities of the senior pastor while the congregation goes through the process to call the senior pastor. The interim is appointed and is not called by the congregation, nor are they voted on by the congregation. The interim pastor will assume responsibilities at Pastor Hardy's retirement.

Once the interim pastor is on board the next step is for Council to appoint a call committee and go through the process of calling the senior pastor in conjunction with the Lower Susquehanna Synod. The interim pastor will be here a year or longer. The members of the Transition Team will not be members of the call committee, nor will they appoint the call committee. The team is to provide assistance to the congregation and council during this methodical and intentional process.

The existing staff will continue to perform their responsibilities through the service of the interim pastor and will not be expected to submit their

resignations. The pastors and staff have been called by the congregation and will continue to serve in their respective roles. It is important that the staff continue to perform their functions during this transition time.

When Pastor Hardy leaves as senior pastor he will not accept invitations to officiate at baptisms, weddings, or funerals. He and his family will not continue to worship at Trinity. Pastor Matthew Winters did return to worship at Trinity, but not until a significant period time had elapsed. These kinds of separations are necessary in the best interest of Trinity, Pastor Hardy, and the new senior pastor.

This report is to insure that the congregation is informed and that the process will proceed as necessary. Mr. Leber was willing to answer any questions, but there were none forthcoming.

President Bonsall recognized Ms. Barbara Kriebel to report on the retirement planning events. Ms. Kriebel introduced the members of the Retirement Planning Committee; co-chair, Bob Frymoyer, Mike Schwalm, Nancy Martin, Rob Reed, Craig Erdman, and Doug Bonsall. A retirement reception will begin with heavy hors d'oeuvres from 3:30-5:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Following that reception there will be a service in the nave with Pastor Brock, Pastor Easton, and Bishop Edmiston participating. Following the service will be a short program. On December 27, January 3, and January 10 Pastor Hardy will be available for you to greet him in the library. The schedule for his final sermons will be Sunday January 10, 8:15 and 11:00; Sunday January 3, 10:45; Saturday, January 2, 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, January 7, 6:30 p.m. On November 8 Tim Koch is planning a concert in Pastor Hardy's honor to be followed by a gala reception. There are going to be a number of opportunities for everyone to speak to Pastor Hardy.

There will also be some remembrances for Pastor Hardy including several scrapbooks containing pictures and notes. There are many groups that would like to do something special for Pastor Hardy and they are asked to please coordinate those events through the retirement committee.

Mr. Frymoyer added those who wish to give a gift to Pastor Hardy, may want to consider a gift to the Capital Campaign, or the Hardy Scholarship Fund at Gettysburg Seminary.

Mr. Tim Trissler moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 with a benediction by Pastor Easton.

Mike Schwalm, secretary
Nancy Martin, assistant to the secretary