

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

MINUTES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING
June 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Bob Frymoyer.

The following council members were present:

Daryl Ackerman	Craig Erdman	Bob Frymoyer
Reuben Balasundram	Joe Fidler	Pastor Hardy
Doug Bonsall	Bill Foos	Betsy Knarr
Pastor Brock	Peter Fox	Tim Koch
Judy Collins	Roland Freund	Mike Schwalm
Kathy Eavey		

Nancy Martin, assistant to the secretary, was also present.

Gathering in God's Name:

Opening Devotions and Lighting of the Guiding Candle

The meeting began by lighting the Unity Candle. Mr. Erdman opened the meeting with devotions and prayer, and hymn number 597 was sung.

Gathering in God's Grace

Roll call and action on requests for absence: Mr. Erdman moved to excuse Maria Hegedus and Christopher Couch per their requests. The motion carried.

Recognition of visitors: There were no visitors present.

Approval of minutes: The minutes were corrected on page four, paragraph four. Change the word "this" in the first line, to "that." Change the word "play" in the fifth line, to "plan." On page six, change the title of the motion "Retirement Contributions" to "Capital Campaign Theme." Add the statement "The June *Trinity Parish* article is attached." Mr. Erdman moved to approve the minutes of May 12, 2008, as corrected. The motion carried.

Agreement on Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Offering of our Gifts and Talents

Petitions and Communications:

A thank you note was received from Christine Mummert in appreciation for Trinity's hosting of the Regional Mini Global Mission Event in May.

A letter of agreement was received from Donald G. Johnson, Director of Project Connect of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries, requesting Trinity's endorsement for Pastor Brock to serve as a Discernment Advocate with Project Connect from September 23, 2008, through April 30, 2010. Pastor Brock will explain this during his report, and a motion to approve will be presented by the Administration and Personnel Committee under New Business.

Staff Reports:

Pastor Hardy emphasized the two major issues which were the highlight of the Senior Pastors' Conference he attended in May: the on-going visioning process, and the understanding of ministry and the development of churches. Twice the number of pastors retired as came out of seminary, and that is going to have an impact on how the church functions.

Pastor Brock mentioned that member Emily Trump was highlighted in the *Patriot-News* for awards received at school. He explained that Project Connect is a Region 8 and 9 project striving to encourage young people to consider ministry. Part of Project Connect is to have discernment advocates take active roles in encouraging ministry as a career. Pastor Brock has been asked to be a Project Connect Discernment Advocate for 19 months. Compensation will be provided to the congregation and to Pastor Brock. He will attend several events over that time period. Pastor Hardy and the Administration and Personnel Committee have approved his participation.

Timothy Koch reported that there was a large attendance at the Diane Bish concert and many positive comments were received.

Peter Fox reminded council to support the car wash in June.

Judy Collins has been visiting new members, and this last class is a great group of individuals. The directory photography schedule is filling up and she encouraged council members to sign up soon. She was the Bible study leader at Camp Nawakwa for staff orientation.

President's Report

Mr. Frymoyer reflected that we are a council of the whole. He requested that members step back and take a look at everything that is going on. Clearly, Christ is in our midst.

Executive Committee: No actions were taken by the Executive Committee

Special Committees

Healthy Church Task Force: No report.

Capital Campaign: Mr. Frymoyer reported that the SWAP agreement has been completed. Frank Leber gave Temple Talks at all services over the weekend, and the Capital Campaign Cabinet has met. Follow up calls will be made on July 15 and 16 to all those who have not responded to the campaign. Posters have been made and Commitment Gift Cards will be in the pew racks next week.

Mr. Frymoyer was questioned as to why the cards need to be back by June 30. He responded that ideally people have not gone away on vacations yet and by convention we are giving them a month. The Capital Campaign had not been presented as an option for new members in the past. That will be rectified with the next class. It was also recommended that it would be good for council members to visit the new members classes periodically.

There has been good response to the idea that the theme is Pastor Hardy's retirement gift. Every dollar that we use to pay down the debt is another dollar that we can use for ministry.

Strategic Planning Committee: Compilation of the comments and feedback from the visioning conference was distributed. The only clear vision that emerged from the conference is that Trinity become a congregation of disciples. The committee plans to develop a mission statement which will indicate who, what, when, where, and how the vision will be achieved. This mission statement will be presented to the council for approval.

Standing Committees

Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee: Mr. Ackerman's report is on file. A Capital Campaign Report was developed in response to the concern that council was not receiving enough information. This report will be refined for the new campaign.

Membership envelope analysis from Dave Miller indicates that giving looks good and we should be on budget by the end of the year.

Council was made aware that one CD came due and a new one was purchased. We are not getting the same kind of interest as previously. M & T has a promotional money market account that we took advantage of.

Trinity has not received any endowments or bequests lately. We are planning to hold personal budgeting and financial management seminars. Shaun Eisenhauer is taking the lead on this under the auspices of the Stewardship Committee. Perhaps they will be offered as part of Sup and Study in the fall.

Currently, we have credit counselors available for couples or individuals who are experiencing financial problems. There are two funds available to assist those in need: the Pastors Emergency Benevolence Fund, and the Friends of St. Francis Fund. We have spent over half the emergency benevolence funds so far this year. The Friends of St. Francis Fund is an interest-free loan

arrangement available to members. Trinity has not emphasized endowment giving lately since we needed to pay down the debt.

Administration and Personnel Committee: Mr. Erdman's report is on file. The committee is beginning to receive revised policy pages. All committees are requested to submit their policy pages before the next Administration and Personnel Committee meeting in September.

Arts Committee: The committee did not meet.

Church Property Committee: Mr. Foos' report is on file. The committee is addressing the issue of the decrease in water pressure during major events. They will be contacting PA American Water company to see if the lines were upgraded at the time of previous building programs.

The engineering firm is waiting for the property deeds in order to submit plans for the demolition of the house at 1915 Market Street. After the Camp Hill Borough receives the plan, it will take up to 60 days to approve. The demolition probably will not occur until the fall. The committee plans to have all the deeds consolidated after the demolition is completed.

Educational Ministry Committee: The committee is scheduled to meet on June 12.

Evangelism Committee: Ms. Knarr's report is on file. The next new members class begins on September 14. Council members are invited to attend the classes. Ms. Knarr would like someone to speak to the new members about finances and what happens when funds are given. She also believes it is important to make them aware of the ministries that Trinity offers.

A long discussion was held with regard to the Shepherding program. As a result, five council members volunteered to serve as shepherds. Guidelines for shepherds will be provided to council members. Bill Stotler will be asked to come to a council meeting to explain what occurs in the new member classes.

Fellowship Team: Ms. Wilson's/Ms. Henderson's report is on file. The big events for summer are the three Summer Sundaes concerts.

Missions Committee: Mr. Balasundram reported that Viking Dietrich, the missionary we support in Senegal, is coming to Trinity on June 22. He will be speaking at 9:30 in the Nave and there will be a luncheon at 12:30 in Fellowship Hall. Four Trinity members are going to the Northwest Territories this summer to assist with Vacation Bible School. August 3 is World Hunger Sunday.

Parish Ministry Committee: Mr. Schwalm reported that their calendar information has been submitted.

Publicity and Communications Committee: Mr. Balasundram reported that the committee will be meeting on June 25.

Social Ministry Committee: Mr. Freund's report is on file. The committee discovered that all of the benevolence that we give to Christian Churches United (CCU) goes toward administration. Future donations will be designated with 50% of the funds going to HELP Ministries. Redeemer Lutheran Church will be disbanding as of June 30, and the congregation has offered the building to CCU for their offices. CCU may take over building, but it needs lots of work. Discussion was held as to ways the building could be used.

Stewardship Committee: Mr. Fidler's report is on file. Craig Staller came to their meeting and reported that folks that attended the Mini Global Region Event are excited about Stewardship and Mission.

The chart on the back of his report shows that people over the age of 70 are those who give the most. The numbers need to be presented on a per capita basis. The Stewardship Committee would like to choose people from each category who are good givers and have them prepare articles from the point of view of each age group: how does each category address giving with relation to where they are in their life.

Worship Committee: Mr. Weaver's report is on file. The committee is investigating the purchase of dollies for the pianos because they do not stay in tune when they are moved so often. They will be hosting the Garden of Eatin on a number of Sundays. They feel there is no need to change the bylaws concerning which committee has the responsibility for musical instruments and choir vestments as voted on last month. There will be a motion to rescind that motion under New Business.

Youth Ministry Committee: Mr. Schwalm reported that if it stops raining the Youth Group will have a car wash in June.

Reports of Auxiliaries - No report.

Continuing Service

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Ackerman questioned the status of the unpaid balance owed to Trinity by Fitch's Trading Post. Mr. Frymoyer reported they still owe about \$4,000. Mr. Frymoyer, Mr. Ackerman, and Mr. Foos will contact Shaun Eisenhauer for a recommendation as to how to proceed.

New Business:

MOTION: Healthy Church Task Force

Mr. Fidler moved to disband the Healthy Church Task Force, since the scope and work of the Strategic Planning Committee was reauthorized and expanded by President Frymoyer at the May, 2008, Congregation Council meeting. The motion carried.

MOTION: Pastor Brock's Housing Allowance

Mr. Erdman moved to increase Pastor Brock's housing allowance by an additional \$5,000 over the remaining seven months of 2008. The motion carried with Pastor Brock abstaining.

MOTION: Portico and Sidewalk Project

Mr. Foos moved to authorize the expenditure of an additional \$17,000 from MIRA to cover the budgetary shortfall needed to complete the proposal from K. S. Heagy, Contractor, for portico and sidewalk improvement projects. Mr. Foos reported that last year we didn't spend all of the \$30,000 which was in the budget for the portico repairs. \$10,000 was carried over from last year's budget and an additional \$10,000 was placed in this year's budget. They have determined that \$17,000 is required to complete the project. The motion carried.

MOTION: Insurance Policy Deductible

Mr. Foos moved to accept a \$5,000 deductible on the church's insurance policy, saving \$850.00 per year of premium expense. The motion carried.

MOTION: Rescind By-Laws Motion

Mr. Erdman moved to rescind the motion made last month concerning the bylaws (*Move that the Bylaws of Trinity Church be amended in accordance with Chapter 14, Bylaws of Trinity Church's Constitution to delete from Bylaws Section 6, Committees paragraph 4.d "and shall be responsible for the purchase and care of musical instruments and choir vestments"*). The motion to rescind carried with Mr. Foos abstaining.

MOTION: Pastor Brock's Project Connect Participation

Mr. Erdman moved to approve the endorsement of Pastor Brock to serve as a Discernment Advocate with Project Connect from September 23, 2008, through April 30, 2010. The motion carried with Pastor Brock abstaining.

Comments for the good of the order

Pastor Hardy was questioned about the scope of the work of the Transition Team. Pastor Hardy said that his mutual ministry team is working with the Synod to determine the appropriate actions that Trinity should be taking. They will be partially responsible for helping with the transition to the interim pastor, and will be available as a consulting committee for the interim pastor. Pastor Hardy has been reporting on their meetings.

Ms. Martin requested that calendar material be submitted soon.

Pastor Hardy thanked Doug Bonsall for all of his volunteer work in the kitchen for the past two special events.

Dismissal: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Council members joined hands and prayed together The Lord's Prayer.

Nancy Martin, Assistant to the Secretary