

**Trinity Lutheran Church  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING  
February 9, 2009**

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

The following council members were present:

Daryl Ackerman	Kathy Eavey	Ryan Hannigan
Reuben Balasundram	Craig Erdman	Pastor J. Stewart Hardy
Doug Bonsall	Bill Foos	Betsy Knarr
Pastor John Brock	Peter Fox	Tim Koch
Jody Collins	Roland Freund	Dave Miller
Christopher Couch	Lorraine Graybill	Mike Schwalm
Pastor Nancy Easton		

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

**Gathering in God's Grace:**

**Opening Devotions:**

Judy Collins led the devotions using the article entitled "Respect" from pages 18-24 of the January issue of *The Lutheran*.

Roll Call and action on requests for absence: All members were present.

Recognition of visitors: Vicar Cheri Korte, George Wirt, Joe Fidler, Debbie Wilson, Joe Hunter, Fred Bohls

Approval of minutes: Mr. Erdman moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting with the addition of the names of the program staff listed as present. The motion carried.

Agreement on Agenda:

There is one additional motion from the Evangelism Committee.

Note the times for the reports of the Strategic Planning Team, and the Transition Team.

**Offering of our Gifts and Talents**

Petitions and Communications: None

Staff Reports:

Reports were received from Pastor Hardy, Pastor Brock, Pastor Easton, Christopher Couch, Tim Koch, Peter Fox, Debbie Wilson, and Judy Collins.

Pastor Hardy is truly enjoying his involvement as chaplain of the Camp Hill Fire Company.

Pastor Brock expressed his gratitude to all those who planned and worked so hard on the Mardi Gras celebration.

Christopher Couch reminded council members that registration for Sup and Study begins on Sunday. Vicar Cheri will lead a class on women of the Bible; Judy Collins course is “Making Real Your Spiritual Gifts”; and Pastor Brock will lead “The Confirmation Class You Never Had.” Some classes may need to be capped to even out the class enrolment.

Peter Fox reported that the Youth Group raised approximately \$1500 for The Bridge food pantry and collected about 250 food items on Souper Bowl Sunday.

Tim Koch and a small ensemble from the Chancel Choir sing at the AGO 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the birth of Mendelssohn.

Judy Collins is writing an article highlighting available areas of service. Committees should alert her of any needs.

#### President’s Report:

President Bonsall welcomed the four new council members, Lorraine Graybill, Ryan Hannigan, Betsy Knarr, and Dave Miller. He thanked those who attended the council dinner, and Craig Erdman, Nancy Martin, and Paul Hensel for their presentations at that event.

Mr. Bonsall and Mr. Erdman have had interesting and enlightening meetings with committee chairs and groups. They had the opportunity to listen to hopes, dreams and challenges. Some items were brought to their attention that need to be addressed.

He strongly encouraged council members to attend Sup and Study. One person commented to him that it was nice to see so many council members supporting the Mardi Gras event.

Mr. Bonsall reminded all that the Policy Manual is a guide that follows practice and does not determine practice. Hopefully committees will keep their pages up-to-date.

Executive Committee: No actions

#### Reports of Special Committees:

Capital Campaign: No report.

Strategic Planning Committee: Mr. Foos’ report is on file. In addition to his written report, Mr. Foos reported the process for consolidating the comments from congregation members. Using the congregation’s input, Pastor Easton, Joe Fidler, and Fred Bohls revised the Vision/Mission Statement, then went back to committee for additional editorial comments. The bullets were removed, two additional guiding principles were added, and the guiding principles were revised to make them proactive or actionable statements. They are being presented to council tonight, and then to the congregation.

MOTION: Vision/Mission Statement    Mr. Foos moved to accept the Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles document as presented to the Council, replacing page 1.15 of the Operating Instruction Manual.

Discussion was held, many comments made and questions were answered.

Mr. Couch recommended removing the word “will” in each of the Guiding Principles. Mr. Freund agreed.

MOTION: Amend document

Mr. Freund moved to amend the document by removing the word “will” in each Guiding Principle.

After much discussion it was determined that the committee had devoted considerable time in preparing the document and that it was not being presented to council for amendment. Council was being asked to approve or reject as presented.

Mr. Freund withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Foos reiterated that the principles are for us to employ in our actions as leaders and committees. It should be revisited and reviewed in the future. The leaders are to take the document and personalize it in committees. The principles are to guide everyone to move ahead and apply them to carry out the mission of the church.

The motion carried.

MOTION: Congregation Meeting

Mr. Foos moved to call a special congregational meeting to ratify this document on Sunday, March 1, 2009, at 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The ratification statement to be presented to the congregation is in the Strategic Planning Committee report. Motion carried.

Mr. Foos distributed a proposed agenda for the leader’s retreat, which will lead committees to work out their own mission/vision statements. Pastor Paul Peel will make a presentation on how to approach the organization of the church in a different manner. It will be a day to work together to achieve the vision. The book *Power Surge* by Michael W. Foss is recommended reading prior to the retreat.

Transition Team: Mr. Frank Leber, chair of the team, gave an explanation of the transition process as Pastor Hardy retires and an interim pastor arrives. The committee members are Shaun Eisenhauer, Judy Hunter, and Janet Preble. The team was formed from Pastor Hardy’s mutual ministry team.

This team is responsible for interface between the synod and the congregation on one level, and the congregation and the retiring pastor on another level. The team is also responsible to the council and will keep council informed. They have already met with Pastor Easton and Pastor Brock individually, and the staff as a whole.

The transition team is responsible for maintaining the liaison between the synod and Trinity through Pastor David Fisher. The Transition Team will help to establish closure on Pastor Hardy's ministry but

will not be responsible for retirement celebrations. A separate Retirement Planning Task Force has been appointed to plan any recognition events to honor Pastor Hardy.

They are basically responsible for providing an umbrella of oversight through this process of appointing the interim pastor and the transition from interim to new senior pastor. The call of the interim pastor is up to council, not the transition team. They are not responsible to form the call committee, nor will they be members of the call committee.

The Synod is responsible to put forward names of candidates for interim and names to be entered in the call process. The interim process will probably start in the third quarter of this year and really gear up in the fourth quarter. The interim is not a call. Council will select the interim pastor, but this is not voted on by the congregation. The process of appointing the call committee will occur after the interim pastor is here.

Procedurally, there is no such thing as ascendancy to the senior pastor position, but Pastor Brock and Pastor Easton are both eligible. However, both pastors have indicated that they have no intention of making themselves available for the position. No current staff members are required to tender their resignations when a new senior pastor is called. All the current staff has been called after Pastor Hardy was called and the call of a new senior pastor may cause the staff composition to be changed. Some may decide they no longer want to serve, but they are not expected to resign. The senior pastor did not call the staff, the congregation did.

Mr. Leber emphasized that Pastor Hardy will not be returning to do baptisms, weddings, and funerals when he retires. Neither will he worship here. It is inappropriate for him to return unless invited by the sitting senior pastor.

There is not a term limit for the interim pastor. They are called for the length of the time it takes to fill the vacancy. We should expect a year to two years. The interim pastor will not be called as the permanent pastor. The interim pastor is intentionally to serve as a buffer between Pastor Hardy and the next senior pastor. This is to avoid an “unintentional interim” (a called pastor who only stays a short time).

The important thing is to come through the process in an orderly manner to make things go as smoothly as possible. Mr. Leber will make the same presentation to the congregation.

#### Reports of Standing Committees:

Treasurer’s Report and Finance Committee: Mr. Ackerman’s report is on file. We can’t tell a lot from the first month of the year, however we are well ahead of where we were last year due to the repayment of the loan we took from ourselves.

Administration and Personnel Committee: Mr. Erdman’s report is on file. During discussions with Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of Trinity they indicated they do not like being considered auxiliaries. Therefore a motion will be made to appoint Christopher Couch as liaison to these groups. This is consistent with practices in the ELCA where these groups are considered ministries of the ELCA. In the past at Trinity, these groups have been placed under the jurisdiction of another committee.

A listing of appeals to congregation was distributed at the dinner. Please advise Craig of any additions to the list.

Arts Committee: Ms. Haar’s report is on file. Ms. Eavey was provided exhibit guidelines and other materials to familiarize her with the committee functions since she is their new liaison.

Church Property Committee: Mr. Foos' report is on file. The committee is still actively working on the situation with 1915 Market Street. Mary Kay Fager prepared a colored drawing of what the property might look like once the building is gone. The committee hopes to have a re-hearing to receive permission to demolish the building.

The revised facilities usage fees have yet to be approved. They will be reviewed by the committee, sent to Administration and Personnel, and then council for approval.

Some of the connections in the Nave chandeliers had fallen apart when they were lowered to replace bulbs. Those connections are now hard-wired. An electrician will be contacted to correct this situation.

The lights in Fellowship Hall need to be changed using scaffolding so they are only changed once each year.

Educational Ministry Committee: Mr. Couch's report is on file. A pie and conversation gathering for Koinonia groups will be held on April 22. The committee is compiling a list of those who are currently involved in a group in order to invite them to event.

Evangelism: Ms. Knarr's report is on file. Twelve youth have volunteered to help with the Evangelism door to door ministry. Council members are encouraged to sign up for the pot luck lunch on February 22 to meet and greet new members. Mr. Freund asked what Trinity is doing about folks who are not members but who give. Ms. Knarr responded that they are invited to join.

Fellowship Committee: Ms. Wilson and Ms. Henderson's report is on file.

Missions Committee: Several mission presentations have been made during the Sunday Church School hour with good attendance.

Parish Ministry Committee: Ms. Sprowls' report is on file. Several questions concerning their policy page will be brought to the Administration and Personnel Committee.

Publicity and Communications: Ms. Graybill's report is on file. The committee is reorganizing and re-energizing. They are in the process of getting papers signed to transfer the ownership of our domain name to Trinity.

Social Ministry Committee: Ms. Freund's report is on file. Thanks to all those who worked so hard on the Mardi Gras event. Between \$4,000 and \$5,000 was realized from the event to benefit HELP ministries. An evaluation meeting will be held to determine whether we plan another event like this in the future.

Stewardship Committee: Mr. Fidler's report is on file. Discussion was held concerning those who have not made any financial contribution. Those who have not communed and contributed for two years are contacted by the Evangelism Committee. Associate members have no vote, and cannot hold office. There are those who attend but do not want to become members of Trinity.

Worship Committee: Mr. Weaver's report is on file.

Youth Ministry Committee: Covered under Peter Fox's report.

Ministries of the ELCA

Women of Trinity: Ms. Eby's report is on file.

Lutheran Men in Mission:

**Continuing Service**

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

MOTION: Scout Flower Sale    Ms. Eavey moved to grant permission for Boy Scout Troop 51 to hold its annual flower sale at the west end of the parking lot Thursday, April 9, through Saturday, April 11. The motion withdrawn since there is a continuing resolution permitting the scouts to hold their annual sale without council approval.

MOTION: LMM and WOT Liaison

Mr. Erdman moved to approve Christopher Couch as liaison to Women of Trinity and Lutheran Men in Mission. Motion carried.

MOTION: New members

Ms. Knarr moved to approve the following for membership. Christopher Butt; Kristi, Steve, and Hailey Clark; James Clisham; Jessica Cole; Roger and Joyce Gustavson; Martin and Rachel Hammond; Darlene and Richard Hess; Rhonda Hylton; Steven, Kathryn, Ryan, Alex, Drew, and Cole Lamontagne; Nancy Martin and Philip Mock; Gilbert Prokop; Kathy and Nathan Sauter; Michael Tighe; Rachel Wright. Motion carried.

**Comments for the good of the order:**

Mr. Ackerman is pleased that we are looking at all the financial appeals made to the congregation.

Mr. Schwalm volunteered to lead devotions next month.

**Dismissal:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Council members joined hands and prayed together The Lord's Prayer.

Michael Schwalm, secretary

Nancy Martin, assistant to the secretary.