

# Trinity Lutheran Church Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

## MINUTES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING March 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	Craig Erdman	Pastor J. Stewart Hardy
Doug Bonsall	Bill Foos	Betsy Knarr
Pastor John Brock	Roland Freund	Tim Koch
Judy Collins	Ryan Hannigan	Mike Schwalm

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

### **Gathering in God's Grace:**

**Opening Devotions:** Mike Schwalm led the opening devotions focusing on the article "Upside, Downside of Church Size" from the February issue of *The Lutheran*.

Roll Call and action on requests for absence: Mr. Erdman moved to excuse Dave Miller, Reuben Balasundram, Christopher Couch, Peter Fox, Kathy Eavey, and Lorraine Graybill per their requests. The motion carried.

Recognition of visitors: No visitors were present

Approval of minutes: Mr. Ackerman edited the Treasurer's Report to read as follows: "We can't tell a lot from the receipts from the first month of the year. Total assets were higher than last year due to the repayment of the loan we took from ourselves." Mr. Ackerman moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2009, meeting as corrected. The motion carried.

Agreement on Agenda: Ms. Knarr has an item to bring up under New Business.

### **Offering of our Gifts and Talents**

#### Petitions and Communications:

A letter was received from Jacquie Rucker, CCU, thanking Trinity for the \$1,295.47 donation they received from Souper Bowl Sunday collection by the Youth Group.

Bishop Hoover sent a letter concerning the status of Pastor Alan Wenrich.

Project Connect expressed appreciation for Pastor Brock's leadership as a discernment advocate in our synod.

Marion Medical Mission (the organization through which SCS donated funds to build wells) thanked Trinity for the additional \$800 donation. This was the excess of receipts over costs for food service supplied by the Kitchen Crew.

Staff Reports:

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

President's Report: Mr. Bonsall's report is on file. President Bonsall and Mr. Erdman met with committee chairs and heard many issues expressed. There was much discussion related to audio/visual support. President Bonsall asked council if they thought it would be appropriate to establish an A/V committee.

Mr. Foos spoke to the issue. He had spoken to Dan Henderson and Kevin Brady and had contracted Morefield to give training. However, after receiving many comments it was determined that we have enough expertise to do our own training. A training session will be set for the Nave and Fellowship Hall. The decision must be made as to how to administer the system for certified users. The issue that Mr. Bonsall heard was not exclusive to training, but also acquisition of new equipment. Mr. Foos plans to empower a group of trained individuals to make decisions for purchase.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee gave permission for PROBE to do on-sight career training without paying a facilities usage fee.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee: Mr. Ackerman's report is on file. Total assets are down from last month due to ELCA foundation amounts going down. An additional \$12,000 was paid toward the Capital Campaign Fund as noted in his report.

The Finance Committee is still optimistically hoping that membership envelope giving will be at the budgeted level.

ELCA Endowment Fund representative, Rev. Gregory Kramer will be at the April Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Foos requested that MIRA restricted funds be unrestricted.

Administration and Personnel Committee: Mr. Erdman's report is on file. Several committee policy pages are coming to council. The Administration and Personnel Committee will process the pages of other committees as they are received.

On March 29 Tim and Amy Koch will be honored as they celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversaries at Trinity.

The workgroup studying the solicitation of funds from the congregation will meet on Thursday, April 30 at 7:15 p.m.

Arts Committee: No Meeting

Church Property Committee: Mr. Foos' report is on file. He requested that thanks be given to Dan Reed for his many handyman jobs.

Educational Ministry Committee: Mr. Bush's report is on file.

Evangelism: Ms. Knarr's report is on file. There has been feedback that some Trinity members expressed concern that they received the door hanger information distributed by the committee. Ms. Knarr explained

that they distributed the door hangers to all homes without checking for membership. Council expressed appreciation to the committee and did not see a problem with members receiving the information.

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

Missions Committee: Mr. Staller's report is on file.

Parish Ministry Committee: Ms. Sprowls' report is on file.

Publicity and Communications: Mr. Schwalm's report is on file. He reported that he and Ms. Graybill are continuing to get their arms around this new responsibility.

Social Ministry Committee: Mr. Freund received information from New Hope Ministries that any gifts given prior to April will be matched with challenge gifts from various organizations. He will request that Paul Hensel send the \$4000 yearly amount budgeted for New Hope so that they receive the matching funds. Mr. Ackerman indicated that this would not be a problem.

Jacque Rucker will be at Sup and Study to receive the check from funds realized from the Mardi Gras in support of Christian Churches United.

Stewardship Committee: No meeting

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

Youth Ministry Committee: Report included in Mr. Fox's report.

Ministries of the ELCA

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

Lutheran Men in Mission: No report

### **Continuing Service**

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Ms. Knarr distributed information concerning security issues at churches. She asked if we should consider looking at additional security plans. This falls in the realm of the Property Committee. Mr. Foos will speak with head usher, Bob Foster about including awareness training in the upcoming usher training sessions.

MOTION: P.P. 1.30.14 Mr. Erdman moved to approve Policy Page 1.30.14 (Worship Committee). The motion carried.

MOTION: P.P. 1.30.18 Mr. Erdman moved to approve Policy Page 1.30.18 (Parish Ministry Committee). It was asked if we should wait to approve committee policy pages until mission statements are added to each page. It was determined that the mission statements can be added to each committee's page as they are adopted instead of holding these pages. The motion carried.

MOTION: P.P. 3.10.1 Mr. Erdman moved to approve Policy Page 3.10.1 (Contribution Chart for Facilities Usage). Motion carried

MOTION: Synod Assembly Voting Members

Mr.. Erdman moved to appoint Ryan Hannigan and Josephine Freund as voting members to the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Camp Hill. Motion carried.  
Pastor Brock announced that the West Shore Conference Assembly is April 19.

Comments for the good of the order:

Mr. Foos is in the process of compiling information received at the retreat and will forward to all attendees when it is completed.

Pastor Hardy commented that this year's council retreat was one of the best we have had in his 20 years as senior pastor. Mr. Foos and Mr. Joe Fidler were thanked for organizing and leading the retreat.

Council was reminded that the next meeting is on April 20 which is the third Monday, since the normal meeting date would be the day after Easter.

Mr. Erdman moved to adjourn.

**Dismissal:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Council members joined hands and prayed together The Lord's Prayer.

Michael Schwalm, secretary

Nancy Martin, assistant to the secretary.