

Trinity Lutheran Church
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania
MINUTES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING
May 11, 2009

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

The following council members were present:

Daryl Ackerman	Christopher Couch	Pastor J. Stewart Hardy
Reuben Balasundram	Craig Erdman	Betsy Knarr
Doug Bonsall	Bill Foos	Tim Koch
Pastor John Brock	Roland Freund	Dave Miller
Judy Collins	Lorraine Graybill	

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

Gathering in God’s Grace:

Opening Devotions: Lorraine Graybill led the opening devotions focusing on the article “Prayer – It Doesn’t Have to be so Difficult” from the April 2009 issue of *The Lutheran* magazine.

Roll Call and action on requests for absence: Mr. Erdman moved to excuse Kathy Eavey, Peter Fox, Ryan Hannigan, and Mike Schwalm per their requests. The motion carried.

Recognition of visitors: Vicar Cheri Korte

Approval of minutes: Mr. Foos corrected the minutes on page two under the Strategic Planning committee to read: “Mr. Foos reminded committee chairs to submit their mission statements to the Strategic Planning Committee for assistance before submitting them to Council.” Also on page two under the Vicar’s Project, correct “30 square feet” to “30 feet square.” Mr. Freund moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2009, meeting as corrected. The motion carried with Mr. Ackerman abstaining since he was not at the meeting.

Agreement on Agenda: It was decided to deal with motions as they were presented during committee reports.

Offering of our Gifts and Talents

Petitions and Communications:

Mr. Freund extended an invitation to council members and families to a picnic at his home on August 10.

The council and congregation were invited to attend the May 18 annual spring assembly of Christian Churches United at Camp Hill Presbyterian Church.

Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Tom McKee, has informed us that our bonding insurance through the Lower Susquehanna Synod has been reduced to \$10,000 from \$50,000 due to five dishonesty claims within the synod. In all likelihood the synod will not be able to provide any coverage beginning next year and congregations will have to provide their own bonding insurance. The matter was referred to the Church Property Committee. The Finance Committee was directed to ensure that proper audits are taken care of for all auxiliary groups within the congregation.

Staff Reports:

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

Pastor Hardy will provide a lengthy report for the June meeting.

Mr. Couch distributed a copy of the letter that is going out to confirmands inviting council members and program staff to the confirmation dinner. Mr. Bonsall asked for council members to give time either in preparation or clean-up for the event.

Ms. Collins asked council members to contact her if they have volunteer opportunities to be included on the weekly orange Discipleship Opportunity insert. This volunteer sign-up sheet is working very well. She invited all council members to attend Affirmation of Faith classes. Upon being questioned as to how she differentiates between her job responsibilities and her own discipleship activities she indicated that it is difficult.

President's Report: Mr. Bonsall's report is on file. He reported on the trip to the Upper Arlington congregation where they learned a great deal about their use of prayer. Council members there view being on council as a ministry and everything is taken to God in prayer. An additional council meeting is devoted entirely to praying for issues facing the congregation.

Mr. Bonsall will be appointing a task force to look at the process for calling a pastor (i.e. how many congregation meetings are required, surveys to be completed, forms to be filled out, ranking what Trinity sees as the important areas of need in a new senior pastor).

Executive Committee: No actions taken.

Special Committees or Task Forces:

Solicitation Task Force: Mr. Erdman's report is on file.

MOTION: Congregation Solicitations

Mr. Erdman – Be it resolved that the Congregation Council of Trinity Church will limit the approval of new appeals to no more than three per year. Further, one of the three appeals will be reserved for domestic disaster relief.

Mr. Foos moved to table the motion until he had time to consider it further. The motion to table carried (5, ayes; 4 noes; 2 abstentions).

Strategic Planning Task Force: Mr. Foos read the proposed mission statement of the task force as presented in the April 15 report to council. The appointed task of dealing with the property at 1915 Market Street has been accomplished and the task force is now asking to be accepted as a standing committee of council. One concern was expressed that given the proposed mission statement, what is left for council to do? It was suggested that the future work of the Strategic Planning Task Force would be clarified by being given specific direction from the Congregation Council.

After much discussion, Mr. Freund made the following motion.

MOTION: Strategic Planning Task Force Mr. Freund moved that council authorize the Strategic Planning Task Force to proceed with investigating alternative options of space to accommodate our expanding worship and ministry needs. The motion carried.

The Executive Committee was requested to look at the draft mission statement of the Strategic Planning Task Force and made recommendations.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee: Mr. Ackerman's report is on file. Dave Miller reports that we continue to be on target to make the budget.

Administration and Personnel Committee: Mr. Erdman's report is on file.

MOTION: P.P. 1.20.11 Mr. Erdman moved to approve Policy Page 1.30.11 (Publicity and Communication Committee). Motion carried

MOTION: P.P. A-31 Mr. Erdman moved to accept new Guidelines for the Donation of Art and Objects of Value as Policy Manual Appendix A-31. Mr. Foos reported that the Church Property, Arts, and Publicity and Communications Committees will present a plan for acceptable places for art placement as well as bulletin boards, etc. Motion carried.

Arts Committee: Ms. Haar's report is on file.

Church Property Committee: Mr. Foos' report is on file. There will be an asbestos inspection of the building at 1915 Market Street at a cost of approximately \$2000; funding in the budget. The fire and police departments will use the building for training prior to the asbestos inspection.

The committee has approved a recommendation by the Audio/Visual subcommittee to purchase a digital recorder for the nave. Funds are to be gifted by an anonymous donor. Designated memorial funds will be used to purchase audio/visual equipment for education.

The Camp Hill Borough has received a request to put a crosswalk on Market Street. The Property Committee has approved the idea. The borough will coordinate with the state for placement of the crosswalk across from the Market Street entrance.

MOTION: Exterior painting Mr. Foos moved the authorization to spend up to but not to exceed \$65,000 in painting and wood repair for the exterior of the church and the building located at 1959 Market Street. Funding source to be determined by the Finance Committee. The motion carried.

Educational Ministry Committee: No meeting. Mr. Couch reported that the Koinonia Rally was well attended.

Evangelism: No written report. Ms. Knarr presented a list of those in the Affirmation of Faith class.

MOTION: New Members Ms. Knarr moved to approve the following for membership: Alison Cope; Michael, Lynn, Christopher, Steven, and Johnathan DeSantis; Sara Feichtel; Roger and Joyce Gustafson; Jim, Jennifer, Maxwell, and Alicia Hahn; Anthony Henery; Paul and Jacquelyn Johnston; Susan, Scott, and Faith Kwiatkowski; Randall and Nancy Moore; Thelma Nuttall; Meagan Orth and Clark Smith; Kathy and Nathan Sauter; William, Andrea, Dillon, Dalton, and Saigen Stauffer; Sharon Twomey; Laryssa and Holden Van Lieu; Alexis Vogel; David, Betti, Marteen, and Maggie Witmer. Motion carried.

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

Missions Committee: No meeting. Mr. Balasundram reported that petitions related to world hunger were sent to congress. A missions trip to Montana is being planned for June.

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

Publicity and Communications: No meeting. Ms. Graybill reported that website use is growing with hits from around the world.

Social Ministry Committee: Mr. Freund's report is on file. The committee has decided to meet quarterly instead of monthly.

Stewardship Committee: Mr. Miller's report is on file

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: All new business was dealt with earlier.

Comments for the good of the order:

Ms. Martin reminded council members to check their office mail boxes often, and to submit calendar information.

Dismissal: The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Council members joined hands and prayed together The Lord's Prayer.

Nancy Martin, assistant to the secretary