

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**Camp Hill, Pennsylvania**  
**MINUTES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING**  
**June 8, 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
Judy Collins	Roland Freund	Dave Miller
Christopher Couch	Lorraine Graybill	Mike Schwalm

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

**Gathering in God's Grace:**

**Opening Devotions:** Ryan Hannigan led the opening devotions focusing on the article "Sunday School: It's not what it used to be" from the May 2009 issue of *The Lutheran* magazine.

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

Recognition of visitors: None

Approval of minutes: Correction on page 3, under Strategic Planning Task Force. Change the word "made" to "make" in the sentence "The Executive Committee was requested ... and make recommendations." Mr. Ackerman moved to approve the minutes of May 11, 2009, as corrected. Motion carried.

Agreement on Agenda: Under New Business, add discussion of attaining a vehicle for church use.

**Offering of our Gifts and Talents**

Petitions and Communications:

The Lower Susquehanna Synod thanks Trinity for support of ELCA (both local and national church). It was suggested that this be posted and scanned to include in the *Trinity Parish*. Dollars that we give are used to support many issues: Growth in Word of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, Lancaster; production of video clips that inspire mission in our synod and beyond; ELCA Division for Evangelical Outreach and Congregation Mission. Pastor Dave Fisher is now taking on additional duties as the Director for Evangelical Mission.

Staff Reports:

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

Mr. Couch expressed appreciation to council for their efforts related to the dinner for confirmands and their parents. A brochure is available with all the summer educational and worship opportunities.

Mr. Fox reported that the Fiesta Nite and carwash were successful. Nine youth and four advisors are going to the National Youth Convention in New Orleans in July.

Vicar Cheri provided a report about her labyrinth project which is moving along very well. The estimated cost is \$12,000. Mt. Calvary Episcopal Church donated \$5,000 and Trinity \$7,000.

MOTION: Labyrinth                      Mr. Erdman moved to authorize that the funds received for the Labyrinth project which exceed costs be donated to Mt. Calvary Episcopal Church and designated for ongoing maintenance of the labyrinth. Donations from Trinity so far total \$7,709. However, we don't know what the final construction costs will be. The motion carried.

President's Report: Mr. Bonsall's report is on file.

Executive Committee: Mr. Schwalm's report is on file. Discussion was held about the mission statement proposed by the Strategic Planning Task Force. Originally this mission statement was proposed for the committee, but the recommendation is that it be adopted as council's mission statement.

One recommended draft to consider:

*As elected leaders of the congregation, we pray and act on the Holy Spirit's guidance as we shepherd Trinity's communally-discerned vision by continually articulating, planning, leading, and executing the mission and ministries of the Church.*

The Executive Committee will take this draft and bring back a recommendation to the September council meeting.

The Executive Committee is planning the July 13 special council meeting. Any suggestions for inclusion in this meeting are to be given to President Bonsall. Ms. Collins will lead devotions.

Special Committees or Task Forces:

Solicitation Task Force:

MOTION: Tabled motion                      Mr. Erdman moved to take from the table the resolution relating to the number of new appeals that may be brought before the congregation each year. The motion to take the motion from the table carried.

MOTION: Solicitations                      *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.*

After discussion, and by consensus, the motion was amended to read:

*Be it resolved that the Congregation Council of Trinity Church will **consider approval of up to three new financial appeals per year**. Further, one of the three appeals will be reserved for domestic disaster relief. The motion carried.*

Strategic Planning Task Force: Mr. Foos' report is on file. This report concerned ways to reinforce the mission statement and was prepared prior to the committee's new direction from council. Council received the report and assigned the Executive Committee to study the document and provide appropriate direction.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee: Mr. Ackerman's report is on file.

The important thing is that at the end of May the total receipts exceeded total expenses by \$67,000. Membership giving envelopes exceed Dave Miller's expectations by \$11,000. Although some expense line items are under budget at present, it is fully expected that budgeted expense amounts will be spent. Pastor Hardy reported that other large congregations in the synod are in some financial trouble. We have been fiscally conservative and that's why we are in a good position.

The Capital Campaign is proceeding well. The balance is currently \$1,220,000.

The Finance Committee determined that the excess of receipts over expenditures remaining from 2008 be tithed to Missions, Social Ministry, and the Lower Susquehanna Synod, with the remainder to be designated for MIRA. A CD will be coming due soon and a portion these funds will be invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund. All of Trinity's Endowment Fund will then be with the ELCA Endowment Fund.

Jean Romberger designated Trinity as benefactor of an insurance policy valued at \$10,000, and 90% of those monies were added to MIRA.

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

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

Church Property Committee: Mr. Foos' report is on file.

MOTION: Digital duplicator                      Mr. Foos moved to approve the purchase of a five target bay CD/DVD duplicator, estimated to cost \$697, with funds from an anonymous donor, subject to the approval of the Property's AV/IT Technical Team. The motion carried.

All Trinity's art work will have to be re-catalogued if the book containing the information is not located.

July 27 is the deadline for the police and fire companies to use the house at 1915 Market Street for training. The asbestos inspection company is expected to begin their work on July 28. The utility removal began today.

Trinity has joined the West Shore Chamber of Commerce in order to take advantage of the conglomerate to get reduced electrical fees.

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

Evangelism: Ms. Knarr's report is on file. Ms. Knarr distributed a schedule of planned events and a "Wish List" of future events. She asked for volunteers to assist with the door-to-door campaign to be held in Trinity's neighborhood.

The committee has only minimal contact with the Affirmation of Faith Classes (new members), and the Health Fair is suffering from a lack of interest and may not be held. Therefore, Ms. Knarr suggested that it may be time to dissolve the Evangelism Committee since it is felt that all committees are currently focusing on evangelism and there is no need for a committee dedicated to evangelism. The members of the Evangelism Committee voted to dissolve the committee and transfer their various responsibilities to other standing committees.

Discussion was held and council members suggested ways to revitalize the committee as they continue to minister to the congregation.

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

Missions Committee: No meeting was held. Mr. Balasundram reported that the mission trip to Montana has been cancelled.

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

Publicity and Communications: Mr. Schwalm and Ms. Graybill's report is on file. Bookmark size flyers are being developed for each committee and organization. Each group is asked to provide information to the Publicity and Communications Committee. The flyers will be included in a folder for new members, placed on the website, used as bulletin inserts, and generally made available to the congregation.

Social Ministry Committee: No meeting was held. Mr. Freund reported that May was Social Ministry emphasis month with temple talks, and a presentation about New Hope Ministries. Approximately 12 people volunteered to serve at New Hope.

Stewardship Committee: Mr. Miller's report is on file. The committee has completed their mission statement.

Worship Ministry Team: Mr. Weaver's report is on file. Mr. Hannigan asked council to note the name of the committee has been changed to reflect that they are a group of action not just a committee.

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 meeting was held.

## Continuing Service

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

MOTION: Call Process Task Force     Mr. Erdman moved to approve the members of the Call Process Task Force: Charles Armstrong, Craig Erdman, Barbara Kriebel, Bert Weaver and Doug Bonsall (ex officio). The motion carried.

MOTION: Willow Park                     Mr. Ackerman moved that Trinity Lutheran Church donate \$100 to the Camp Hill Willow Park Bicentennial Plaza project from unrestricted (quasi) funds. Trinity received a request from the borough to support this activity. The motion carried.

Mr. Foos suggested that council direct an analysis be done to determine what transportation needs exist in the congregation, and the best method to meet those needs.

MOTION: Transportation Needs         Mr. Foos moved to refer to the Strategic Planning Task Force the study and analysis of the transportation needs of the congregation and return with a recommendation by the October 12 council meeting. The motion carried.

Comments for the good of the order: None

**Dismissal:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. Council members joined hands and prayed together The Lord's Prayer.

Mike Schwalm, secretary

Nancy Martin, assistant to the secretary