

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**Camp Hill, Pennsylvania**  
**MINUTES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING**  
**November 9, 2009**

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

The following council members and staff were present:

Daryl Ackerman	Christopher Couch	Lorraine Graybill
Reuben Balasundram	Kathy Eavey	Ryan Hannigan
Doug Bonsall	Craig Erdman	Pastor J. Stewart Hardy
Pastor John Brock	Bill Foos	Dave Miller
Judy Collins	Roland Freund	Mike Schwalm

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

**Gathering in God's Grace:**

Opening Devotions: Ms. Graybill led devotions based on "Forgiveness is Not Optional" from the October issue of *The Lutheran*.

Roll Call and action on requests for absence: Mr. Erdman moved to excuse Betsy Knarr, Tim Koch, and Peter Fox per their requests. Motion carried.

Recognition of visitors: Bill Tauriello from the Strategic Planning Team; Bert Weaver and Chuck Armstrong from the Call Process Task Force; Joe Fidler, chair of the Stewardship Team; and Jeff Weaver were present at the meeting.

Approval of minutes: The minutes stand approved with two corrections. Add "and staff" to the heading "The following council members 'and staff' were present." Correct the spelling of Mr. Freund's name.

Agreement on Agenda: There were no items to be added to the agenda

Report of the Call Process Task Force. (Report on file)

Pastor Hardy asked to be excused during this report and subsequent discussion.

MOTION: Call Committee Chair     Mr. Erdman moved to adopt the recommendation of the Call Process Task Force to appoint Jeff Weaver as Chairperson of the Senior Pastor Call Committee.

Mr. Weaver shared how he came to make the decision to accept nomination to this position. There is one item of disclosure; his daughter is an assistant teacher of Trinity's Preschool Playgroup. The guidelines state that the chair of the call committee cannot have family members on staff, however, it was determined that this was not a conflict. Mr. Weaver excused himself during the subsequent discussion.

It was noted that Mrs. Bert Weaver, Jeff's wife, is a member of the Call Process Task force. This was not considered to be a concern.

The motion carried.

Mr. Weaver returned to the meeting and was greeted with congratulations.

All names that were nominated for the chair are now in the pool to be considered as members of the committee. President Bonsall distributed forms to be used for additional nominations. The Call Process Task Force meets on December 2 and 3 to establish a list of names to be presented to council at the December meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Weaver and Mr. Armstrong left and Pastor Hardy returned to the meeting

Stewardship Team Report: Mr. Fidler's report is on file. Mr. Fidler requested assistance from council to make phone calls to members who had submitted estimates of giving in the past three years, but not for 2010. The purpose of the calls will be to thank them for their past support and request an estimate for 2010. Mr. Fidler distributed a suggested call script, and will provide callers with names by November 17 so that the calls can be made that week.

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

#### Petitions and Communications:

A note was received from Lutheran World Relief expressing appreciation for the volunteer work accomplished by Trinity members at their facility at New Windsor. Ms. Collins added that 44 different people have made 6 trips to New Windsor.

Market Square Presbyterian Church sent an invitation to their 20<sup>th</sup> annual benefit for Christian Churches United.

Gettysburg Seminary thanked Trinity for supplying a picture for a book they are compiling of the churches in Region 8.

The Camp Hill Economic Development Group thanked Trinity for generously supporting the Bicentennial Plaza Project Willow Park Improvement, and for the construction of the Labyrinth in cooperation with Mt. Calvary Episcopal Church.

Women of Trinity are now supporting Cumberland Crossing and will be announcing their events through the congregation.

#### 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 invited all to hear AnnE Zimmerman, Executive Director of On Eagle's Wings, on November 15, and the Advent Wreath Making Event on November 22. Both are during the 9:30 Sunday Church School Hour.

Mr. Koch was commended on the Pastor Hardy Tribute Concert yesterday.

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

President Bonsall distributed council nomination forms. These are due back by November 30 for consideration by the Executive Committee at their December 7 meeting. A slate of nominees will be presented to council at the December 14 meeting.

Council was asked to reserve December 21 for a second December council meeting, if needed.

Executive Committee: Mr. Schwalm's report is on file.

Special Committees or Task Forces:

Strategic Planning Team: Mr. Foos' report is on file. The team was asked to identify current transportation needs and methods to address these needs. Staff members were surveyed for their input. Bill Tauriello researched options to purchase or lease vehicles and it was determined that purchase is the best option at this time. The committee recommends that a task force be established to procure, maintain, operate, and schedule usage of a vehicle that will satisfy our needs. A motion will be considered under New Business.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee: Mr. Ackerman's report is on file. Mr. Ackerman thanked all committees for providing budget requests and distributed a report noting all requests received. The Finance Committee will sort out requests, contact committees as needed, and prepare the budget for consideration at the December council meeting.

Mr. Ackerman reported that membership envelope giving is projected to be \$15,000 over budget. The Capital Campaign loan balance of \$1,152,000 is expected to be down to \$950,000 by the end of the year.

Administration and Personnel Committee: Mr. Erdman's report is on file. In addressing the new procedure required by Policy Page 1.40.3 (Standing Committee Membership), Mr. Erdman acknowledges that this is not going to be an easy task. Committees may have to work on a phased implementation of this policy without being too disruptive. Committees are asked to submit rosters of those who are currently on their committees, beginning dates, and indication of those who are retiring. Recognition of those retiring from each committee will be made at the annual congregational meeting in January.

Arts Committee: No meeting.

Church Property Committee: Mr. Foos' report is on file. The committee will be addressing the issue of designated smoking areas outside the building.

Educational Ministry Committee: No meeting.

Evangelism: Ms. Knarr's report is on file.

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

Missions Committee: No meeting.

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

Publicity and Communications: Mr. Schwalm and Ms. Graybill's report is on file.

Social Ministry Committee: No meeting.

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

Worship Ministry Team: 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. Dollase's report is on file.

Lutheran Men in Mission: No report.

### **Continuing Service**

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Mr. Erdman and Ms. Graybill were asked to leave the meeting.

MOTION: President            Mr. Foos moved to elect Craig Erdman as Congregation Council President for 2010. Motion carried.

MOTION: Vice-President    Mr. Foos moved to elect Lorraine Graybill as Congregation Council Vice President for 2010. Motion carried.

Mr. Erdman and Ms. Graybill returned to the meeting and were greeted with applause.

MOTION: Master Planning Task Force  
Mr. Foos moved to approve Bob Scaer as chair of the Master Planning Task Force. The motion carried.

MOTION: Transportation Ministry Team  
Mr. Foos moved to establish a Transportation Ministry Team in support of the identified demand by ongoing ministry programs throughout the church.

Concern was expressed that members didn't have sufficient time to read the report prior to the meeting

Mr. Erdman moved to table the motion. The motion to table carried.

MOTION: Master Planning Task Force funding

Mr. Erdman moved the funding requests for the Master Planning Task Force and the Transportation Ministry Team be included in the Property Committee budget. Mr. Foos spoke against the motion stating that it could pit the Master Planning Task Force against other property commitments. Much discussion was held.

Mr. Foos moved to table the motion. The motion to table carried.

MOTION: Small claims suit Mr. Foos moved for Trinity as an organization to file a small claims suit against the former tenants at 1915 Market Street for unpaid rental due Trinity. Mr. Foos provided the facts that the tenants owed us \$5,000 in back rent. To date they have paid all but \$1,900. After much discussion, the motion carried with Judy Collins, Doug Bonsall, and Pastor Hardy voting against the motion.

MOTION: Electronic attendance

Mr. Erdman moved to allow Congregation Council members to attend meetings and vote from a remote location when connected by electronic means during the course of the meeting and discussion, but voting by proxy or in absentia will not be permitted.

Mr. Foos moved to amend by replacing “electronic means” with “real-time audio communication,” and to add “unless church policy requires personal attendance.” The amendment carried.

The motion as amended:

Move to allow Congregation Council members to attend meetings and vote from a remote location when connected by real time audio communication during the course of the meeting and discussion, unless church policy requires personal attendance, but voting by proxy or in absentia will not be permitted.

The main motion as amended was defeated.

MOTION: Proxy voting

Ms. Graybill moved that voting by proxy or in absentia at Congregation Council meetings will not be permitted. The motion carried.

MOTION: Leadership Development Training

Mr. Erdman moved that the issue of additional leadership development training be referred to the Strategic Planning Committee for research and implementation. The motion carried.

- MOTION: P.P.1.20.9; 1.20.10      Mr. Erdman moved to approve Policy Page 1.20.9 (Job Description Sexton - Russell Brown) and Policy Page1.20.10 (Job Description Sexton - Cindy Hammond).  
The motion carried.
- MOTION: P.P. 1.30.12      Mr. Erdman moved to approve Policy Page 1.30.12 (Social Ministry). The motion carried.
- MOTION: A & P Budget      Mr. Erdman moved to approve the over expenditure of church funds in the amount of \$9,000 for Fringe Benefits during 2009.  
The motion carried.
- MOTION: Carpeting      Mr. Foos moved to approve the unbudgeted cost not to exceed \$2,500 of remodeling the Senior Pastor's office from available funding in the Property budget line #63010 (Maintenance and Repair) with work to be completed during the month of December.  
The motion carried.
- MOTION: CACCC      Mr. Freund moved to permit the Churches Affiliated Child Care Centers (CACCC) to sell Bon-Ton coupons and Advent Calendars in the Gathering Space each fall as fund raisers for their Student Scholarship Fund. The motion carried.
- MOTION: Going Green      Mr. Foos moved to approve Margaret Bishop Parker as chair of the Going Green Task Force. The motion carried.

Pastor Hardy asked to be excused from the meeting.

- MOTION: P.P. 2.60 Waiver      Mr. Erdman moved to approve the waiver of Policy Page 2.60 (Vacations) 10 day maximum year-end carryover provisions for Pastor Hardy. This request was made by Pastor Hardy's Mutual Ministry Team, not Pastor Hardy. The motion carried.

Comments for the good of the order:

Ms. Martin reminded all to submit their annual reports by November 30.

**Dismissal:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m. Council members joined hands and prayed together The Lord's Prayer.

Mike Schwalm, secretary

Nancy Martin, assistant to the secretary