

Trinity Lutheran Church
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania
MINUTES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING
December 14, 2009

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

The following council members and staff were present:

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| 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 | Dave Miller |
| Judy Collins | Roland Freund | Mike Schwalm |
| Christopher Couch | Lorraine Graybill | |

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

Gathering in God's Grace:

Opening Devotions: Ms. Knarr led devotions based on "Stamped by Patriarchy" from the November issue of *The Lutheran*.

Roll Call and action on requests for absence: Mr. Erdman moved to excuse Tim Koch per his request. It was noted that Ryan Hannigan will be arriving late. Motion carried.

Recognition of visitors: Strategic Planning Team members Joe Fidler and Fred Bohls were present.

Approval of minutes: Mr. Erdman moved to approve the minutes of November 9, 2009, as printed. Motion carried.

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

Presentation of the Budget

Mr. Ackerman provided background on the budget preparation process and discussion was held.

All visitors and staff members were excused from the meeting in order to discuss the Administration and Personnel portion of the budget.

Pastor Brock and Ms. Collins were invited to return after this discussion, and the meeting continued in executive session to review and discuss the list of possible candidates for the Call Committee as presented by the Call Process Task Force. Pastor Hardy requested that it be noted that he was not present for this discussion.

All visitors and staff members returned to the meeting after this discussion.

Offering of our Gifts and Talents

Petitions and Communications:

The Women of Trinity informed council that they are planning to invite congregation members to submit recipes and/or sponsorship donations to cover the cost of printing their cookbook.

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg shared the name of the student who will be receiving aid from the J. Stewart Hardy Scholarship Fund, and thanked Trinity for its ongoing support of the seminary.

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 has passed his fire police exams.

Mr. Couch announced that classes for children and youth will not be held on December 27 and January 3, although the Affirmation of Baptism class will be held on January 3. The Missions Committee is hosting Richard Sarker on January 3 and he will be speaking at an adult forum at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Koch was questioned about the process by which CDs of Pastor Hardy's Tribute Concert are being offered to the congregation. Pastor Hardy indicated that he has received a ruling from attorney Shaun Eisenhauer with regard to the copyright issue.

President's Report: Mr. Bonsall's report is on file. Congregations Together in Mission (CTIM) is scheduled for March 13 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover. Council members are encouraged to attend.

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 has three major tasks which have been assigned to them; Long Term Property and Facility Use, Transportation Ministry, and Church Leadership Training and Implementation. His report addresses all three areas.

The Facility Use report is a statement of work. The committee asks council to submit any concerns with this plan.

The Transportation Ministry report is supplemental to last month's report. Additional comments and concerns are requested from council.

The Leadership Training Recommendations were presented by Mr. Joe Fidler. The committee has developed a 3-year plan. The cost of year one is \$7,000 to pay David Stark to lead a seminar. Much discussion was held about the training, Mr. Stark's credentials, and the cost.

Call Committee Process Task Force: Report on file

Reports of Standing Committees:

Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee: Mr. Ackerman's report is on file. It is expected that membership envelope giving will be about \$15,000 over what had been budgeted. Salaries and benefits will go over budget, and property expenses will come in under budget. Paul Hensel has estimated that there will be approximately \$25,000 in excess receipts over expenditures at year end. The current loan balance is at \$1,136,982 and that is expected to be reduced to \$1,100,000 by the end of the year.

One of the major considerations to balance the budget for next year is to take several items out of the budget and consider them as capital items. The Finance Committee will determine a funding source for these items in January.

Administration and Personnel Committee: No written report. Mr. Erdman presented Policy Page 1.30.19 (Nominating Committee). This is a new policy page to be considered in January. Please forward any comments or concerns to Mr. Erdman (use his home email address, not his work address).

Mr. Erdman requested that committee rosters be submitted to Nancy Martin with years of service noted for each member.

As president-elect Mr. Erdman informed council that Friday, January 29, at 7:00 p.m. will be the orientation meeting for council members and committee chairs. On Saturday, February 20, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., council members (current and incoming), committee chairs, pastors, and program staff will meet with the Call Committee to work on the congregational profile which must be completed as part of the call process.

Arts Committee: No meeting.

Church Property Committee: Mr. Foos' report is on file. Tomorrow the emergency lighting throughout the building is being repaired as needed.

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

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's and Ms. Graybill's report is on file.

Social Ministry Committee: No meeting.

Stewardship Committee: Mr. Fidler thanked all those who made calls on behalf of the Stewardship Committee.

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. Connie Dollase's report is on file.

Lutheran Men in Mission: Mr. Bill Tauriello's report is on file.

Continuing Service

President Bonsall presented the list of suggested candidates to fill the four positions for Congregation Council. Council members will rank the candidates as indicated on the form. The rankings will be tallied by Mr. Erdman and Ms. Graybill and the candidates will be contacted.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

MOTION: Council nominees Mr. Erdman moved to approve the names submitted to council be contacted in their ranked order to fill the four positions for Congregation Council. Motion carried.

MOTION: Additional nominees Mr. Erdman moved to grant the Executive Committee the authority to select additional candidates for the 2010 council, if necessary. Motion carried.

MOTION: Housing allowance Mr. Erdman moved to approve the 2010 housing allowance for Pastor Brock at \$22,000. Motion carried.

MOTION: Housing allowance Mr. Erdman moved to approve the 2010 housing allowance for Pastor Easton at \$13,500. Motion carried.

MOTION: Housing allowance Mr. Erdman moved to approve the 2010 housing allowance for Pastor Hardy at \$1,800. Motion carried with Pastor Hardy abstaining.

MOTION: 2010 Budget Mr. Ackerman moved to approve the 2010 budget as presented. Motion carried, with one dissenting vote.

MOTION: Call Committee Mr. Erdman moved to approve the preliminary slate of names for consideration for the Sr. Pastor Call Committee. Motion carried with Pastor Hardy abstaining since he has no knowledge of what names had been proposed.

MOTION: Transportation Ministry Mr. Foos moved that a Transportation Ministry Task Force be established to further help develop and implement a flexible Transportation Ministry program to support the needs of both the community and congregation in order to bring God's people closer to his word. Additionally, that sufficient financial resources (seed money) be allocated to support the implementation of this new ministry by no later than the 1st Sunday in September 2010.

Concerns were expressed about the number of items already excluded from the budget for next year due to financial constraints. This would be one more non-budgeted expenditure. Additionally, the amount of the seed money required is not stated.

Mr. Erdman moved to amend the motion by replacing the last sentence with "Request this ministry task force report back by May 15 at which time the funds will be considered by the appropriate committees and council." Amendment carried.

Amended motion:

Moved that a Transportation Ministry Task Force be established to further help develop and implement a flexible Transportation Ministry program to support the needs of both the community and congregation in order to bring God's people closer to his word. Request this ministry task force to report back by May 15 at which time the funds will be considered by the appropriate committees and council. The amended motion carried.

Comments for the good of the order:

Pastor Brock commended Tim Koch, the choirs, and FaithX for a wonderful concert last night. He also thanked all those who assisted in getting people out of the building safely during the power failure.

Mr. Ackerman expressed concern about possible safety issues created by chairs in the aisles in the balcony when the lights went out.

Dismissal: The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m. Council members joined hands and prayed together The Lord's Prayer.

Mike Schwalm, secretary

Nancy Martin, assistant to the secretary