

Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline
Council Minutes
Tuesday, September 12, 2017
Faith Hall

Attendance: Diana Alm, Jane Bahls, Pastor Larry Conway, Karen Dowsett, Nancy Greer, Judy Johnson, Len Lindell, Bill Lootens, Dan Haskill, Liam Haskill, Judy Johnson, Bob Ruud, Craig Tillman, Alli Vandermyde.

Guest: Rev. Michael Lawyer from St. Paul Lutheran in Orion, to represent the Northern Illinois Synod.

Alli offered a devotion on disciples of Jesus would have had political differences yet who were able to keep their eyes on Jesus and not attack each other.

Rev. Lawyer thanked Trinity for mission support and the ministry we carry out here. Council members shared some of the ministries we have here: Blessed Beginnings, Table Talk, Adult Forum, Faith and Conflict series, Hunger Team and meal sites, Prayer Shawl ministry, quilt ministry, Closet 2 Closet. Rev. Lawyer left a packet with information including "Where does my offering go," ideas for year-around stewardship, and Trinity's history of giving. Council members asked questions about consolidation of churches, the dearth of millennials, and competition from big-box churches. He thanked Trinity for hosting the fall conference gathering.

Karen Dowsett called the meeting to order at 7:30. Bob moved and Len seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Approved. Nancy moved and Judy seconded to approve the Minutes of August 9, 2017 Council Meeting. Approved. Len moved and Dan seconded to approve the Minutes of the August, 27, 2017 Special Congregation Meeting. Approved.

Karen circulated the offering sign-up for October.

Reports:

Alli reported that Tech Team is soliciting bids for the IT contract.

Jane noted that the dates for remaining Adult Forums for September are reversed from the report.

Pastor Larry clarified what the Ad Hoc Worship Team means by an on-demand coffee system.

Bob moved and Len seconded to approve the pastoral, staff and team reports as corrected.

Finance Report

Bill Lootens noted that our finances are looking good, about \$3,000 ahead of budget. He credited the investment team for continual growth of the Endowment. Offerings are slightly down for the month, but this is likely due to gifts through Birdies for Charity. He highlighted a few matters on the financial reports. Do we pay too much in fees for electronic giving? Why are we over budget on Northern Illinois Synod giving? Pastor Larry moved and Alli seconded approval of the finance report. Approved.

Old Business

- Bill reported that the replacement parking lights have been ordered.
- Bill also noted that air conditioners are being installed, and the fire alarm system installed and monitoring complete, now monitored by Simplex. Council members asked if we should have a system installed for monitored security, in addition to our cameras. A discussion followed of the challenges of such a system given the number of people coming and going.

- Karen opened discussion of the proposed Continuing Resolution on the Property Reserve Account: *“In the case of a major building or equipment failure that needs immediate attention (such as a major failure in the heating or cooling system), the Property and Harvest Committees may recommend to the Congregational Council that funds from the Property Reserve Fund be used as in Section 2 above. In this urgent type of situation, the Congregational Council may approve up to 10% per year of the current Property Reserve Fund for that specific purpose without congregational approval.”*

Bill pointed out that the Property Reserve Fund is currently \$221,913, so 10 percent would be \$22,191. All moved to approve. Nancy seconded. Motion approved.

- Karen read a proposed sixth clause in the Property Reserve guideline: *“The Property Reserve Fund shall accrue from new designated bequests, life insurance, or other estate planned provisions received by the church. In addition, any undesignated bequests, life insurance or other estate planned provisions received by the church shall be put in the Property Reserve Fund.”*

A discussion followed. Should the default position for undesignated bequest be Endowment or Property Reserve Fund? What if there were a threshold, where if the undesignated bequest were, say, under \$50,000 it would go to Property Reserve, whereas even larger gifts would go to Endowment? Pastor moved and Alli seconded to refer this question to Exec to refine a proposal for the next Council meeting.

- “A Way Forward” Committee is formed: Zeskey, McCallum, Sandberg, Judicas, Amy R, Patty T, Laura Ford, Karen Dowsett and Pastor Larry.

New Business

- God’s Work, Our Hands Project – Diana Alm reported on the Bluffs Neighborhood cleanup day, October 7. Diana offered to provide a continental breakfast, and Alli and Nancy said they could serve it.
- Re-Mark-Able Conversation – Bishop Clements has asked for a dinner with the November 28, 6:30. The Council consensus was that we could do this.
- Special report/request from Property Team, Alli Vandermyde reported that the Tech Team proposes the purchase of new speakers. She explained about the used speakers we were sold seven years ago, which were designed for occasional use, not every week. The last bid we got on this was \$17,000, for six speakers, a portable monitor system. She proposed sticking with the company that designed the system. Pastor Larry proposed submitting a proposal to the Annual Meeting in February. A discussion followed. Alli proposed tabling the matter until the December meeting, by which time the proposal will be further developed, including proposed cost.

Announcements

- Bluff Neighborhood Picnic – 23 September.
- Fall Festival will be 24 September.
- Bluffs Neighborhood Clean up day— Oct. 7.
- October 15—joint celebration of the Reformation.
- October 29—Trunk ’n’ Treat.
- Bishop Clements will hold his Re-Mark-Able meeting at Trinity on Tuesday, 28 November

Good Fruits & Recognition

- Thank you to Karen Anderson and Dave Behrens for setting-up for Special Congregation Meeting on Sunday, August 27, and Julie Blew and Diane Behrens for handling the sign-in process
- Thank you to Sarah Unit for making extra coffee for the Special Congregation Meeting.

- Thank you to the 7th Street String Ensemble and solos from Barb Johnston, Dani Harris and Noralleen Able. We are blessed to have this kind of talent available to us.
- Alli Vandermyde for Council treats and devotion tonight.

Food & devotions for October – Bob Blew

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