

Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline
Council Minutes
Tuesday, December 12, 2017
The Haskills' Home

Present: Diana Alm, Jane Bahls, Pastor Larry Conway, Karen Dowsett, Dan Haskill, Liam Haskill, Len Lindell, Bob Ruud.

After a serving tasty taco bar, Dan Haskill offered a devotion on the Good Samaritan, and on kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit

Karen Dowsett called the meeting to order at 7:25.

Bob R. moved that the agenda be approved as amended. Diana seconded. Approved. Len moved and Diana seconded to approve the minutes of the Nov. 14 meeting. Approved.

Ministry and staff reports:

Bob moved and Dan seconded to accept the reports. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Karen noted that we have a Property Reserve of over \$200,000. Pastor noted that for many years we were playing catch-up on our building, Now we have caught up, so the Property Reserve has been able to grow. \$3,692 will be moved over from Endowment. Bob Ruud moved and Len seconded to approve the financials.

Old Business

- *A Way Forward:* Karen described the hour-long conversation that the team had with Bishop Clements. The bishop said there were no silver bullets, but he'll let us know what he sees. And that something that works in another church may not work here. Other pointers: Meetings should begin with prayer. Think not about your weaknesses, but your strengths. Be very welcoming, from the minute visitors arrive in the parking lot. Redefine failure, and learn from things that don't work. Don't be afraid of change, and don't play it safe. Try to be bold: confident and courageous. Pursue collaborations with congregations or organizations. Look less to numbers and metrics, but to whether our ministries are exciting, energizing, fun. Pastor Larry noted that the team is using Lean processes. Karen said the team is still meeting weekly.

New Business

- *Housing allowance:* Karen reported that Pastor Larry would like the portion of salary designated as housing allowance for 2018 to be \$24,000. Jane moved and Bob seconded to approve this. Approved.
- *Trinity Churchmen:* Bill Lootens sent a report that Trinity Churchmen, who are no longer functioning, would like to transfer their remaining \$275.78 and their cupboard to WELCA. Diana moved and Bob seconded to approve this action.

- *Endowment:* Karen circulated the annual report from Endowment committee showing all grants made in 2017.
- *Constitutional resolutions:* Karen described several changes in verbiage that the ELCA is requiring, including combining three former titles into one, Deacon. A new category, Seasonal Members, cannot vote or run for office when their main church is elsewhere.
- *Bylaws:* Karen described routine changes to the Bylaws. Pastor moved and Dan seconded to recommend these changes in both the Constitution and the Bylaws to the congregation at the annual meeting. Motion approved.
- *Security guard:* In light of current general threats, should Trinity hire a security guard? Pastor noted that statistically, an attack at our church is less likely than being struck by lightning. Bluffs neighborhood has asked for a police substation in the neighborhood. What if we offered a police substation in our building? We would not charge the city for an office. Consensus was to allow Pastor Larry to pursue the question.
- *Nominating:* Larry McCallum is soliciting ideas for new members of Council.

Announcements:

- **January Council Meeting Date Change – 16 January 2018**
- Lenten Devotional writing openings still available
- Mid-Week Service – 13 & 20 December @ 6:30
- Longest Night Service – 23 December @ 5:30 pm
- Christmas Eve Services – 4:00, 6:30 and 10:00 pm
- Epiphany Program & Service – 4 January @ 6:30 p.m.

Good Fruits:

- Church Council for hosting Bishop Clements Re-Mark-Able visit
 - The Haskills for hosting December Council meeting & Devotions.
 - Trinity opening its doors to a Symposium on HATE for the community.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Pastor Larry dismissed the council with prayer.

Devotions & Treats – 16 January, 2018 – Karen Dowsett