

Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline
Council Minutes
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
Faith Hall

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

Karen Dowsett began with a devotion on change, and the way God works change.

Karen called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

A Way Forward

Laura Ford reported on A Way Forward, the team searching for initiatives to build our congregation and reverse current trends. After much research and discussion, the team accepted that there was no silver bullet. The team used the Process Improvement model, as used by Augustana College. She walked through a presentation on trends and ideas considered. Two primary foci in the near future: attracting younger adults and families, and better evangelism and marketing. Two sub-teams are working on these two foci, aiming for shorter term, mid-range and longer term changes.

Budget

Eric Sandberg walked through a budget summary for the General Operations Fund, showing that expenses were lower than budgeted for 2017, giving us a \$14,559 surplus for 2017. But 35% of our giving units increased what they gave, 45% remained the same, and 25% decreased. Nancy Greer requested seeing the actual budget figures before voting. Bob Ruud moved and Ali seconded to approve the proposed budget based on the budget summary and Eric's explanation. Motion approved. Eric agreed to send the detailed budget to Nancy. Eric noted that there are dedicated funds sitting unused that could be used to fund some of our "A Way Forward" initiatives.

Minutes of December. Len moved to approve. Dan seconded. Minutes approved.

Staff and team reports. Jane moved and Judy to approve reports. Approved.

Finance: Bill Lootens did a cursory finance report, given the extended report by Eric. Approved.

Old business

- **Pastor Larry reported that Moline Police are considering our offer of a police substation.**
- **Canopy has been installed.**
- **Parking lot lighting is done. Restriping in spring, but people should not park in front of it..**

New business

- **Trivia Night, Jan 26: Youth would like there be a Council trivia team. Karen circulated sign-up.**
- **Thrivent dollars—about \$4,000 per year. we have been splitting between LIFE and CareLink. A discussion followed. Diana urged the church to publicize. Karen moved and Bob B. seconded to make the same allocation.**

- **Chaplain scholarship: The Army Chaplain's Office has requested more ELCA chaplains. ELCA is starting a scholarship for seminarians who commit to a three-year chaplaincy. On behalf of Exec, Bob B. moved and Dan seconded devoting \$1,000 from Council Discretionary Fund to this purpose.**
- **Endowment Committee has recommended Adam Lounsberry and Barb Johnston to fill slots in the Endowment Committee. Bob R. moved and Len seconded to approve. Nancy Greer requested that in future, names proposed be given to Council in advance. Motion approved.**
- **Karen Dowsett announced her own resignation from Council. Bob Blew has agreed to serve as president, if elected. Jane moved and Pastor seconded to accept Karen's resignation with regret. Karen noted that Diana, Judy, Bill and Liam are also completing their terms.**

Good Fruits

- **Tech Team for all their work on the Platinum contract.**
- **Art Milton and Bob Blew for their work on continuing resolutions and bylaws.**
- **Karen Dowsett for her service as President. Bob Blew presented her with a water pitcher to acknowledge her service, along with a message about pouring out service.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:05. Pastor Larry dismissed with prayer.