

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
Held September 20, 2021

Voting Council members present: Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille; William Bjorum; Krista Gossai; Thomas Haugrud; Mel Sullivan; and Andrew Thelander.

Non-voting Council members present: Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation Peter Weston Miller and Parish Administrator Robert Eiselt.

Absent: David Martin.

Guests: None.

Location: In-person at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m. by President Mel Sullivan.

1. Welcome – Blessing/Devotions.
2. Christ Care Prayers.
3. Devotions: Dwelling in the Word – racial autobiography. Mel made a thoughtful presentation regarding her experiences in racial and diversity matters.
4. Pre-distributed items:
 - a. Minutes from the August 2, 2021 council meeting were distributed electronically to Council for review.

M/S/P to accept and approve the Minutes from the August 2, 2021 council meeting.

- b. Pastors' Reports were distributed electronically to Council for review.
5. Old Business or Follow Up:
 - a. Pastor Chris provided an update regarding the request by the Boy Scouts of America that Trinity remain the "Charter Organization" for BSA Pack 9249. The proposed Charter Agreement for the upcoming year was distributed electronically to Council for review. It was noted that the Charter Agreement sets certain aspirational goals for the Charter Organization with respect to scouting and imposes certain obligations on the Charter Organization with respect to Pack 9249. Pastor Chris and Bob had recently participated in a conference call with the leaders of Pack 9249, at which time they advised Pack 9249 that Trinity would no longer serve as a Charter Organization but would continue to welcome Pack 9249 to meet at Trinity upon signing Trinity's Building Usage Agreement, as part of Trinity's commitment to community hospitality.

M/S/P: That Trinity will no longer be the Charter Organization for the Boy Scouts of America, but that Trinity continues to welcome Pack 9249 to meet at Trinity upon signing Trinity's Building Usage Agreement, as part of Trinity's commitment to community hospitality; and that Pastor Chris' and Bob's actions in so advising Pack 9249 are confirmed and ratified.

- b. Bob advised that the conversion to the new computer software called "ShelbySystems" was completed today.

6. New Business:

- a. Shout Outs and Gratitude moments.
- b. Council further engaged in the Visioning exercise.
- c. The Financial Visioning session was deferred to the November 9, 2021 council meeting.
- d. Planting Hope Campaign. Pastor Chris had provided the link for Council to review regarding the initiative of the St. Paul Area Synod called the Planting Hope Campaign. Whether and the manner in which Trinity will participate in the Planting Hope Campaign was deferred to the November 9, 2021 Council meeting.
- e. The Outreach Mission Team had presented to Council a resolution that recommended that Trinity continue to budget \$1,000.00/year for the support of Dr. Mark Jacobson and the ministries he initiated, doing so in the same manner as in the past and continuing for each of the next ten years through the church budget year 2031. Further, in the event that Dr. Jacobson is no longer receiving support from the ELCA within this 10-year period, that Trinity continue to support this life's work by re-directing the annual contribution to Global Health Ministries for the benefit of the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center and Selian Lutheran Hospital located in Tanzania.

Bob advised that the historical annual contribution for the support of Dr. Jacobson has been \$3,000.00 not \$1,000.00. Council contacted the Chair of the Outreach Mission Team and advised of the Outreach Mission Team's misunderstanding with respect to the annual contribution amount. Upon being so advised, the Outreach Mission Team amended its resolution to budget \$3,000.00/annually not \$1,000.00/annually.

M/S/P: That pursuant to the resolution as amended of the Outreach Mission Team, Trinity shall continue to budget out of the general benevolent fund the sum of \$3,000.00 annually for the support of Dr. Mark Jacobson and the ministries he initiated, doing so in the same manner as in the past and continuing for each of the next ten years through the church budget year 2031. Further, in the event that Dr. Jacobson is no longer receiving support from the ELCA within this 10-year period, that Trinity continue to support this life's work by re-directing the annual contribution to Global Health Ministries for the benefit of the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center and Selian Lutheran Hospital located in Tanzania.

- f. Tanzania Scholarship fundraising. Pastor Chris advised that Trinity has historically raised funds for the purpose of providing scholarships/financial assistance to children in Tanzania to allow them to attend secondary school. These scholarship funds are forward to and administered by the Diocese of Iringa. These scholarship funds would be raised by seeking donations from those who have gone on mission trips to Tanzania and would not be taken out of the general benevolent fund.

Council without motion authorized Pastor Chris to proceed with the Tanzania Scholarship fundraising.

- g. Council vacancies and nominating committee. Mel is ending her second 3-year term on Council, and due to term limits, cannot be elected to a third term. Andrew filled a vacancy created upon a resignation, and his first 3-year term is ending; he advised that he would be willing to accept a second 3-year term. The Council nominating committee members are Doug Johnson, Tom Olsen, and Erica Kanewischer.
- 7. The Bylaws provide that the Congregation Council shall serve as the Executive Committee. A confidential closed Executive Committee meeting was convened at approximately 8:40 p.m. to discuss a confidential matter.
- 8. Reflection/Prayer.
- 9. Next Council meeting. A Council connections/huddle meeting will be held via remote means on October 6, 2021, mainly to continue the Visioning exercise.
The next monthly Council meeting will be October 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Mel will advise whether to be held in person or by remote means.
- 10. Adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Thomas Haugrud
Thomas Haugrud
Secretary
Electronically signed