

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
Held November 15, 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: Parish Administrator Robert Eiselt.

Absent: David Martin; and Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation Peter Weston Miller.

Guests: Eric Sherburne for his presentation as noted below only.

Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. by President Mel Sullivan.

1. Welcome – Blessing/Devotions.
2. Christ Care Prayers.
3. Devotions: Dwelling in the Word – racial autobiography. Bill made a thoughtful presentation regarding his experiences in racial and diversity matters.
4. Pre-distributed items:
 - a. Draft Minutes from the October 20, 2021 council meeting were distributed electronically to Council for review.
M/S/P to accept and approve the Minutes from the October 20, 2021 council meeting.
 - b. Draft Minutes from the November 1, 2021 special council meeting were distributed electronically to Council for review.
M/S/P to accept and approve the Minutes from the November 1, 2021 special council meeting.
 - c. The Pastor report from Pastor Peter was distributed electronically to Council for review. Pastor Chris did not submit a Pastor report.
 - d. Bob did not submit an Administrator's report. The preliminary budget for 2022 was distributed electronically to Council for review.
 - e. The Re-Entry Team did not submit a report.
5. Old Business or Follow Up:
 - a. Council discussed the upcoming Congregational Annual Meeting, including the Agenda and that the meeting will be a blended in-person and virtual format. Gail Olson has agreed to serve as the Parliamentarian. Bill and Andrew will jointly present the budget.

b. Council Visioning Statement.

At the October 18, 2021 Council meeting, Council completed the Visioning exercise and unanimously adopted the following Vision Statement:

Because God first loved us, the Trinity council strives to lead and learn in the love of Jesus Christ; courageously through curiosity, spiritual growth and risk taking, faithfully in gracious accompaniment with our neighbors, publicly through advocacy of God's unfolding dream.

Mel sought ratification of the Vision Statement.

M/S/P that the above Vision Statement is ratified and approved.

c. Financial Visioning Session. Council held a Financial Visioning Session on November 9, 2021. Mel and Pastor Chris thanked the council members who attended and encouraged council to continue in 2022 to build on the conversations from that session.

6. New Business:

a. Shout Outs and Gratitude moments.

b. Eric Sherburne, a bankruptcy attorney with the Eckberg Lammers law firm in Stillwater, made a presentation to Council regarding the bankruptcy filing of the Boy Scouts of America. The BSA filed for bankruptcy in February 2020. Insofar as Trinity has historically been a "chartering organization" of a local BSA troop, Trinity filed a proof of claim in the bankruptcy matter as an "indirect abuse claimant". No claim has been made against Trinity relating to the BSA, but the proof of claim was filed as a precautionary measure in the event such a claim is made in the future. Mr. Sherburne reviewed the current status of the BSA bankruptcy and advised that the BSA has now submitted a Plan of Reorganization. In connection with the submitted Plan, Trinity needs to decide how to proceed on two matters.

The first matter is whether to vote to approve or reject the Plan, or not vote thereby abstaining. After discussion:

M/S/P that Trinity will not vote to approve or reject the BSA's Plan of Reorganization, thereby abstaining.

The second matter relates to Trinity's involvement in the "Settlement Trust" that will be created if the Plan is approved. The default provision under the proposed Plan is that a chartering organization will become a "Participating Chartered Organization" within the framework of the Settlement Trust, unless the chartering organization affirmatively opts out. After discussion:

M/S/P that Trinity elects to be governed by the default provision under the BSA's proposed Plan of Reorganization and will become a "Participating Chartered Organization" within the "Settlement Trust" if the BSA's Plan or Reorganization is approved, and Trinity will not opt out of the default designation.

Council thanked Mr. Sherburne for his clear and thorough presentation and his representation of Trinity in this bankruptcy matter, which he is doing on a *pro-bono* basis.

c. Drive in usage. Pastor Chris noted that Trinity's Drive-In property in Wisconsin has been a tremendous resource in particular during the Covid pandemic, but that it is underutilized. Discussions will continue in 2022 about taking steps to better use the Drive-In.

d. Proposal for new hymnals. Worship Director Carol Carver submitted a proposal that would allow her to make an appeal to members to raise funds to purchase new hymnals called “All Creation Sings”. The cost is \$14.50 per hymnal, and she is hoping to raise sufficient funds to buy 300 hymnals, at a total cost of \$4,350.00.

M/S/P that Carol Carver on behalf of Trinity may appeal to members for the purposes of raising funds to purchase 300 copies of the “All Creation Sings” hymnals, at a total cost of \$4,350.00.

e. Planting Hope Campaign of the St. Paul Area Synod (SPAS). SPAS has requested that each of its member Congregations designate an individual from Council to attend one training session on the Planting Hope Campaign that SPAS is conducting. Andrew volunteered to so attend.

7. Reflection/Prayer.

8. Next Council meetings. A special Council meeting will be held immediately following the November 21, 2021 Annual Meeting, to elect officers for the upcoming fiscal year.

The next regular Council meeting will be held on December 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at Pastor Chris’ house in Bayport.

9. Adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s Thomas Haugrud

Thomas Haugrud

Secretary

Electronically signed