

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Held November 21, 2022**

Voting Council members present: Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille; William Bjorum; Krista Gossai (delayed and arrived at 7:00); Thomas Haugrud; John Hodler; and Jill Longnecker.

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

Absent: Andrew Thelander.

Guests: None.

Location: Remote via Teams.

Meeting called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille (who presided due to absence of President Andrew Thelander and Vice-President Krista Gossai).

1. Welcome.  
John Hodler was welcomed as the new Council member.
2. Christ Care Prayers.
3. Dwelling in the Word:  
Pastor Chris led the devotional based on a reading from Deuteronomy chapter 6.  
Council Learning and Growth:  
Discussion of Chapters 5 and 6 of the book “Tempered Resilience” was deferred to a future Council meeting.
4. Approval of Minutes/Agenda.
  - a. Draft Minutes from the October 25, 2022 council meeting were distributed electronically to Council for review.  
**M/S/P** to accept and approve the Minutes from the October 25, 2022 council meeting as submitted.
  - b. **M/S/P** to approve the agenda for the November 21, 2022 council meeting as amended at the beginning of the council meeting.
5. Election of Council Officers:  
**M/S/P** to elect the following slate of officers:  
President – Andrew Thelander;  
Vice-President – Krista Gossai;  
Secretary – John Hodler; and,  
Treasurer – William Bjorum.

6. Pre-distributed items:
  - a. The Pastor reports from Pastor Chris and Pastor Peter were distributed electronically to Council for review.
  - b. The administrator report from Bob was distributed electronically to Council for review.
7. Further review of Church Financials:

The Church's line of credit ("loc") is capped at \$200,000 and is currently extended to \$170,000. In order to maintain the ability to meet Church obligations while contributions are below pledge amounts, Council discussed seeking an increase in the loc or applying a portion of the \$120,000 in Council Designated Reserves to the outstanding loc. It was further noted that the fiscal year 2022 deficit was \$77,848, which has contributed to the increase in the loc.

**M/S/P** to apply \$80,000.00 of the Council Designated Reserves to the outstanding loc.
8. Comprehensive Campaign – Next Steps:

It was noted that the capital campaign was approved by a 93% vote and signified a remarkably affirmation from the congregation.

Steve Olson from Olson Advancement had been retained to provide the feasibility study only. Council discussed retaining his services for the actual capital campaign. His bid for services for the capital campaign itself was for \$29,500 and there would be no additional fees for travel, meals or lodging. His fee was to be "paid over a five-month period beginning after congregational vote to proceed". His fee is not included in the fiscal year 2023 general budget, and should be payable out of the capital campaign funds as necessary capital campaign expenses. Council deferred taking action on retaining his services for the capital campaign itself pending clarification of the payment terms.
9. Fundraising Policy.

Trinity Lutheran Church currently has a one page "Fund Raising Policy" with a date of 10-1-16. Council discussed the need to update the Fund Raising Policy and directed that staff prepare a revised Fund Raising Policy and submit to Council for consideration at a future meeting.
10. Office and Building Closure.

**M/S/P** to approve the closing of the Church office and entire building from December 26, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Pastor Chris and Bob will be on call during that time to respond to any pressing matters.
11. Recognition of Service/Signing of cards.

The recognition of the video/sound both builder volunteers ("God Work Our Hammers Award"), and the recognition of Claudia Swenseid as Stewardship Team Chair have already been completed.

A thank you card for Carol Strake for her service on Council will be given at the upcoming Council Christmas party.
12. Next Council meetings.
  - a. There will be no Council connections-huddle meeting in December 2022.
  - b. The December 2022 Council meeting is set for Monday, December 19, 2022 to be held in conjunction with a Council Christmas party at Pastor Chris' house.

c. The rescheduled Council retreat is tentatively set for Friday and Saturday, January 27 and 28, 2023.

13. Closing Prayer.

14. Adjournment.

The council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*s/ Thomas Haugrud*

Thomas Haugrud

Congregational/Council Secretary

*Electronically signed*