

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
Held January 27, 2023

Voting Council members present: Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, William Bjorum, Krista Gossai, John Hodler, and Andrew Thelander.

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

Absent: Thomas Haugrud, Jill Longnecker

Guests: None

Location: In-person at Bello Cucina, St. Joseph, MN

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM by President Andrew Thelander.

1. Christ Care Prayers.
2. Pre-distributed items.
 - a. Draft Minutes from November 21, 2022, council meeting and the January 27, 2023, proposed council meeting agenda were distributed electronically to council for review.
M/S/P to accept and approve Minutes from the November 21, 2023, council meeting and the proposed agenda for the January 27, 2023, council meeting.
 - b. The Administrator report from Bob was distributed electronically to Council for review.
3. Old Business.

Comprehensive Campaign, “New and Renewing – the Next 150 Years” Olson Advancement contract approval was completed via email in December 2022.

M/S/P Trinity Lutheran Church contract Steve Olson of Olson Advancement to shepherd us through our three-year comprehensive campaign, New and Renewing: The Next 150 Years. At the request of Council President, Andrew Thelander, Parish Administrator Bob Eiselt signed the agreement on behalf of Trinity Lutheran Church.
4. Pastor’s Reports.
 - a. Pastor Chris communicated that there have been more funerals than expected. The staff performance reviews are underway and going well.
 - b. Pastor Rich Larson was contracted as Trinity’s Visitation Pastor for 20 hr./month.
 - c. Pastor Chris and Pastor Peter visited three Senior living centers: Boutwells, Oak Park Senior Living, and Croix Dale. The intention is to conduct these visits biannually.
 - d. Pastor Peter and the Youth Ministry is evaluating how to move its programming beyond being only the Mission Trip. He indicated the 2023 Mission trip currently has 20 highschoolers plus adult leaders signed up.

5. Administrator Report.
 - a. Bob recapped that December 2022 FY results are similar to December 2021 FY results. Revenue is below budget and expenses are in line with the budget.
 - b. Bob and Pastor Chris laid how the actions taken to contact givers that have not completed their pledges with mixed results.
 - c. Pastor Chris is working with the Stewardship committee to envision new approaches to ensuring pledges are completed.
6. Comprehensive Campaign update.
 - a. Pastor Chris reported that all campaign deadlines have been met to date.
 - b. There is active and widespread participation on the Campaign's leadership team.
 - c. Steve Olson campaign approach and consultant style is a good fit with the congregation.
 - d. Key campaign dates:
 - i. Feb. 11, Imagination Event
 - ii. Feb. 19, One Worship Service at 10:00 AM. Pledge packets picked up at worship.
 - iii. Mar. 5, Commitment Sunday (Pledges received)
 - iv. Apr. 23, Celebration Sunday (Gifts & Pledges dedicated)

Action item for Council members: Pastor Chris asked the council members to attend the February 11th, IMAGINATION session and listen to the Congregation's ideas regarding how to deploy the mortgage savings generated by a successful campaign.
7. October 2023 Tanzania trip.
 - a. Preliminary plans are formulated for an October 2023 trip coordinated through BKB. Currently Michele Hermansen and Mike Johnson are co-leading the trip. Trip members will provide their individual trip funds. The last trip was in 2018.
8. Shout out, Gratitude moments.
 - a. Thanks to the numerous people that are stepping up for the Comprehensive Campaign.
 - b. The Stewardship team will send thank you cards to all those that fulfilled their pledge.
 - c. Marilee Tangen and Linda Flood are providing invaluable service to the Comprehensive Campaign and administrative backup in general.
9. Next Council meetings.
 - a. Council connections-huddle meeting is 5:30 PM, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023, if needed.
 - b. The next regular Council meeting is set for Monday, February 20 at 6:30 PM to be held in person at Trinity Lutheran Church, Room 108b.
10. The Council's regular monthly meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM and the Council moved into an Executive session which adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
s/ *John W. Hodler* e-signed
John Hodler
Congregational/Council Secretary