

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
Held February 20, 2023

Voting Council members present: Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, John Hodler, Jill Longnecker, and Andrew Thelander.

Non-voting Council members present: Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation Peter Weston Miller.

Absent: William Bjorum, Krista Gossai, Thomas Haugrud, Parish Administrator Bob Eiselt

Guests: None

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater

President Thelander declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

1. Christ Care Prayers – Pastor Chris.
2. Pre-distributed items.
 - a. **M/S/P** to accept and approve minutes from the January 27, 2023, council meeting.
 - b. **M/S/P** to accept the February 20, 2023, council meeting agenda.
 - c. Pastors' reports were pre-distributed prior to the meeting.
 - d. The administrator's reports will be posted on Teams the week of Feb. 20th.
3. Pastor's Reports.
 - a. Pastor Chris recapped the findings from Eric Trosdahl's analysis of Trinity members stewardship.
 - i. Did conversion to Shelby cause some previous givers to accidentally eliminate automated giving? Ex. Two dozen very involved families pledged \$1-\$10K but donated \$0.
 - ii. Pastor Chris working with Steve Olson to develop process to use during follow-up with selected Trinity members regarding stewardship, i.e., pledges to operating fund.
 - iii. The stewardship team will conduct follow-up with the objective of learning the cause of the differential between pledges and actual donations after the Capital Campaign is completed.
 - b. Pastor Peter will undertake his Sabbatical at Holden Village the summer of 2023.
 - c. Pastor Chris is completing the selection of three Trinity members to serve alongside her during the interview and selection process for the Parish Administrator to replace the retiring Bob Eiselt.
 - i. Per Trinity's Bylaws: C.12.08.01. The congregation may have a parish administrator, who shall be hired by the lead pastor, subject to approval by the congregation council. The parish administrator reports to and shall have the duties assigned by the lead pastor and shall have a fiduciary responsibility to the congregation council.
 - ii. The Parish Administrator's job description is projected to be completed the week of Feb. 20th and posted immediately thereafter.

4. The Parish Administrator's Report and Jan 2023 Financials will be posted on 'Teams' the week of January 20th upon Bob Eiselt's return from vacation.
5. Review of Council membership.
 - a. The current bylaws approved by the Congregation Nov. 19, 2017, state the congregational council membership will be as follows: Bylaw, C.12.01.01. The Congregation Council shall consist of seven members, including five members elected by the Congregation, a treasurer elected by the Congregation Council, and the lead pastor. Bylaw, C.12.01.02. The parish administrator and any rostered staff serving in a called position shall be ex-officio nonvoting members of the congregation council.
 - b. The discussion centered on revising the council membership to include two pastors and the parish administrator as voting members. This proposal retains a lay membership super-majority on the council. It reflects the existing collaborative leadership and shared ministry approach of staff and council. The question to be resolved, what is the correct make-up of the council to ensure responsible governance occurs in all situations.
 - c. President Andrew Thelander will contact Synod staff to obtain Bylaw draft language that changes the council make-up. The council will discuss the recommended change in council membership and the Bylaw draft language at the March council meeting if the draft is available.
 - d. All changes in the Bylaws require approval by the congregation.
6. Comprehensive Campaign update.
 - a. Pastor Chris reported that the one Worship Service on March 19th, Imagination Sunday, had good attendance and enthusiastic participation.
 - b. All campaign packets not picked up on March 19th by members have been mailed.
 - c. Church staff suggested that the LADC be invited to participate in the Comprehensive Campaign with a focus on raising money for the bathroom upgrade part of the deferred maintenance component of the campaign.
 - d. Key campaign dates:
 - i. Mar. 5, Commitment Sunday (Pledges received)
 - ii. Apr. 23, Celebration Sunday (Gifts & Pledges dedicated)

The Council agreed with the staff's recommendation to involve the LADC in the Comprehensive Campaign.

M/S/P the Comprehensive Campaign Leadership team will invite the LADC to contribute funds dedicated to upgrading the bathrooms located by the church library.

7. Council Growth & Learning.
 - a. *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders Are Formed in the Crucible of Change*, by Tod Bolsinger
 - b. Council members prepare to discuss content through Ch. 6 at the March meeting.

8. Shout out, Gratitude moments.
 - a. Marilee Tangen and Jeannie Wendorf are providing invaluable service to the Comprehensive Campaign.
 - b. Linda Flood has provided essential administrative support for the campaign.
9. Next Council meetings.
 - a. Council connections-huddle meeting is 5:30 PM, Wednesday, March 8, 2023, if needed.
 - b. The next regular Council meeting is set for Monday, March 20 at 6:30 PM, in person, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Room 108b.
10. The Council's regular monthly meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

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