

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH of STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
Held June 19, 2023

Voting Council members present: Lead Pastor Chris Bellefeuille, Jeff Anderson, Kristi Gossai, Thomas Haugrud, John Hodler, Jill Longnecker, and Andrew Thelander.

Non-voting Council members present: Parish Administrator, Sarah Kinsman.

Location: Room 108B, Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by President Andrew Thelander.

1. Christ Care prayers.
2. Devotions-Dwelling in the Word. Andrew led the Council in a discussion of Liminality, a state of being disorientated and ambiguity that occurs during transition, experienced by refugees and asylum-seekers for example. Liminality can describe the state of being for an individual or institution, e.g., Church, which is in the space of discernment, evaluating what to leave behind and where or how to move to a new, exciting stage of life or service.
3. Council Learning and Growth. Chapter 7 of *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders Are Formed in the Crucible of Change* by Tod Bolsinger, was discussed.
4. Approval of amended May 15, 2023, Council meeting minutes and June 19th meeting agenda.
M/S/P to amend the minutes by 'adding Jeff Anderson to Voting Council Members present' and approve the amended May 15, 2023, Congregational Council meeting minutes.
M/S/P approve the revised agenda that removed the 'Administrator's report' and added 'income vs. actual expenditures YTD analyses' to the Finance Team update.
5. Pastor report.

The Pastor's report from Pastor Chris was distributed electronically to the Council for review. Pastor Chris highlighted that she is scheduled for Cataract surgery and that Charlie Payne will Chair this fall's Lutefisk Dinner overall organization. Jill & Josh Longnecker will lead the kitchen crew/food preparation for the dinner. Pastor Chris reported that twenty-nine youth and leaders will complete the June 24 – July 1 Puerto Rico Mission trip.

6. Treasurer's and Finance Team reports.
 - a. The May 2023, Fiscal YTD Financial Summary Report and Trinity Financial Update reports were distributed electronically to the council for review prior to the meeting. Jeff pointed out that May results represent 75% of the fiscal year; Expenses are on budget and Income is below budget. To date, Trinity has used \$130,000 of its \$200,000 line of

credit. It was determined that the remaining Council designated funds should be used to reduce the line of credit balance.

M/S/P release the remaining \$40,000 in the Council designated account and apply the funds against the 'line of credit' balance.

The council completed an exhaustive and robust discussion regarding the Church's operating financial deficit; reviewed actions currently underway and offered suggestions for short- and longer-term actions to for the Stewardship and Finance Teams' consideration.

- b. The May 31, 2023, Capital Campaign Pledge Summary and Campaign Allocation Summary report was distributed electronically to the Council for review prior to the meeting. Jeff emphasized that 191 pledges resulted in \$1,925,709 as of May 31st. Some of the contributed amounts have been applied to deferred maintenance, financial accompaniment, and debt reduction. The mortgage principle is now \$2,712,221!
- c. The LADC will be invited to participate in the Capital Campaign to enable the upgrading of the Church's lower-level bathrooms.

7. Other Business.

- a. Employee Retention Credit. The Employee Retention Credit (ERC) is a refundable payroll tax credit for small businesses that continued to pay employees while normal operations were disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Trinity's accounting firm has determined that Trinity is eligible for this credit. The actual amount of the credit will take six to nine months to determine and receive. The anticipated ERC payout will not be budgeted as revenue in the 2024 fiscal year budget.
- b. Church building security: Pastor Chris informed the Council that security cameras are being installed in the main church building. The installation of a trail camera for the drive-in is being evaluated.
- c. Trinity Church reports/updates. Andrew asked the Council to consider what is needed to ensure sustainable governance. For example, does the council need monthly or quarterly summary reports (written or verbal) from teams such as Missions, Stewardship, Facilities, HSAT, Earth Keepers, etc.
- d. Benevolences proposal for consideration: Pastor Chris provided the Council with a recap of donations that are included in the 2023 Congregation's Benevolence Budget. She asked the Council to review this list and offer suggestions for revision as appropriate and approve the distribution of funds at the next Council meeting.

FY' 23 Benevolence Budget

\$30,000	SPAS Apportionment
\$ 1,000	LSS (Lutheran Social Services)
\$ 1,000	Mark Jacobson Level I
\$ 2,000	Mark Jacobson Level II
\$ 1,000	Iringa (Mwatasi) Diocese
\$ 1,000	St. Croix Chaplaincy (now closed)
<u>\$ 3,000</u>	Valley Outreach
\$39,000	

- e. Hospitality through handshaking and greeting Worship Service attendees after the 8:45AM service will be handled by the following:
 - a. Andrew Thelander: July 2nd
 - b. John Hodler: July 9th
 - c. Kristi Gossai: July 30th
- 8. Next Council meetings.
Council Meeting: 6:30 PM, Monday, July 17 (Room 108b – Trinity)
- 9. Special Events.
Trinity Fest: Sunday, September 10th on the Green Space
Annual meeting (tentative) – Sunday, November 19th
- 10. Adjournment.
The council meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/John W Hodler

John W. Hodler

Congregational/Council Secretary

Electronically signed