

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH of STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
Held July 17, 2023

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

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

Absent: Jill Longnecker and Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation Peter Weston Miller (on sabbatical)

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: John Hodler led Devotions centered on Matthew 15:21-28.
Future devotions will be led by Krista Gossai – August 21st, Jeff Anderson – September 18th, Tom Haugrud – October 23rd, and Pastor Peter Miller – November 20th.
3. **M/S/P** approve the June 19, 2023, Council Meeting minutes and the July 17, 2023, Council Meeting agenda.
4. Pastor report.

The Pastor's report from Pastor Chris was distributed electronically to the Council for review prior to the meeting. Pastor Chris and the Council discussed options for the future use of the LADC playground location that is now available given the relocation of the playground equipment to the 'Green Space,' and the viability of the Croix complex of retail shops, U.S. Post office and land (Parcel No. 30.030.20.32.0018). Jeff Anderson was asked to request the Finance Committee complete a financial evaluation of two options for the Croix complex: 1. Retain ownership of the complex and land until the U.S. Post office lease ends, or 2. Divest of the complex and land in the immediate future.

5. Administrator and Treasurer reports.
 - a. The June 2023, Fiscal YTD Financial Summary Report and Trinity Financial Update reports were distributed electronically to the council for review prior to the meeting. Expenses are on budget and Income is below budget.
 - b. Audit vs. Review of Trinity's Financials: Jeff presented the different level of financial documents analysis that would be conducted utilizing a Review versus an Audit. The Audit would analyze a larger sample size of financial transactions and provide a risk evaluation of Trinity's current financial transaction procedures. The Review would analyze one month's financial transactions and a risk evaluation will not be supplied. Jeff will ask Foley Kalseim and Co., LTD, Trinity's CPA Firm, if the annual review they conduct for Trinity can expanded upon into an Audit with only

incremental costing. And can the financial review they complete and provide for the November Annual meeting be the basis for an expanded audit with only incremental pricing.

- c. The Parish Administrator's report was distributed electronically to the council for review prior to the meeting. Additionally,
 - i. Sarah Kinsman discussed the development of a program that will encourage endowment giving. The program's working name is 'Endowment – 1871 Legacy'.
 - ii. Given the City of Stillwater's lack of engagement with Trinity Staff regarding the repair of the 4th Street sidewalk, it was suggested that Sarah contact David Junker, our 2nd Ward Council person to request his help to resolve the impasse between the City and Trinity concerning each party's involvement/responsibility for the 4th Street sidewalk's repair.
 - iii. The Charter School, River Grove approached Pastor Chris concerning the use of the Church's gym on a limited basis while the school is temporarily operating out of the Zephyr, Stillwater. Pastor Chris is discussing the request with Janette Miller, LADC director, to ensure the LADC's programing will not be adversely affected by River Grove's use of the gym.
 - iv. Sarah shared a TLC 2023 Demographic Giving analysis. Sarah noted Trinity is the third church she has served as a Parish Administrator and Trinity's giving is healthy based on her experience.

M/S/P authorize Pastor Chris Bellefeuille and Sarah Kinsman to negotiate the contract between Trinity Lutheran Church and River Grove Charter School for the use of the Church's gym on a limited basis.

- 6. Council members assignment for August 21st meeting. Read Chapter 8 – *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders Are Formed in the Crucible of Change* by Ted Bolsinger.

- 7. Next Council meetings.

Council Meetings: 6:30 PM, Monday, August 21 (Room 108b – Trinity)
Monday, September 18
Monday, October 23
Monday, November 20

- 8. Special Events.

Trinity Fest: Sunday, September 10th on the Green Space
Annual meeting (tentative) – Sunday, November 19th

- 9. Adjournment.

The council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
s/John W. Hodler
John W. Hodler
Congregational Council Secretary
Electronically signed