

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH of STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
Held August 21, 2023

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

Non-voting Council members present: Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman, Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation Peter Winston Miller.

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 were led by Pastor Chris.
2. Devotions-Dwelling in the Word.
Tom Haugrud led the study of a sampling from Pastor Bruce Schein's book *Following The Way: The Setting of John's Gospel*. Schein's book provides geographic, political, and cultural context to assist in understanding the Gospel's scripture.
3. Council Learning and Growth.
Council members will complete reading *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders Are Formed in the Crucible of Change* on their own.
4. **M/S/P** approve the July 17, 2023, Council Meeting minutes and the August 21, 2023, Council Meeting agenda.
5. Pastor report.
The Pastor Peter's report was distributed electronically to the Council for review prior to the meeting.
Pastor Chris reminded the Council that this fall's Sunday worship will begin at 9:00AM and 11:00AM. The Sunday Faith Formation will begin at 10:00AM. The Wednesday evening's midweek service's learning time will be called the "Faith Lab".
6. Administrator and Treasurer reports.
 - a. The Parish Administrator's report and Facilities update were distributed electronically to the council for review prior to the meeting. Additionally, Sarah reported that Trinity will purchase tents to use during the September 10th Trinity Fest. These small tents cost less than renting one large tent and will be re-used at the Drive-in and future Trinity Fests. Sarah announced that Ellen Neseth will retire in late November 2023. Sarah will contact Dave Junker, Stillwater City's 2nd Ward Council person regarding cooperation between the city and Trinity to repair the 4th Street sink hole. Sarah reported that the playground

relocation project is almost complete. The goal of volunteers is to complete drainage and landscaping work around the new playground prior to Trinity Fest.

- b. The July 2023, Fiscal YTD Financial Summary Report, Trinity Financial Update, Comprehensive Campaign reports were distributed electronically to the council for review prior to the meeting.

YTD Contribution Income is below the 2023 budgeted Contribution Income despite July 2023 YTD Income Contribution being slightly higher than the July 2022 YTD Income Contribution. Sarah emphasized that many members caught up and/or fulfilled their pledges in July. This giving will also positively impact August's Contribution Income. Jeff Anderson provided an overview of the financial reports. Pastor Chris and Council members asked that the Comprehensive Capital income and expense be reported separate from the budgeted Income and Expense evaluation. Jeff will provide a revised report reflecting this reporting approach.

After discussion, it was agreed that Sarah and Jeff will schedule a Council budget working session early in October to review Contribution Income assumptions and the Finance Committee's preliminary 2023 – 2024 budget.

- c. Audit vs. Review of Trinity's Financials: Foley Kalseim and Co., LTD, Trinity's CPA Firm, are committed to completing the Audit by November 5, 2023.

7. Other TLC Team Reports/Updates.

- a. The Stewardship Team is scheduled to present a report on their work at the September Council meeting.
- b. Two Council seats will open in November. Krista Gossai will complete two terms and is not eligible for re-election. Tom Haugrud will not seek re-election after serving a three-year term. Andrew indicated that the Council Nominating Committee led by Mell Sullivan is developing a list of Council candidates.

8. President Andrew Thelander moved the meeting into Closed Executive Session with only voting members participating.

9. President Andrew Thelander adjourned the Executive Session and resumed the regular Congregational Church Council meeting.

M/S/P The Trinity Congregational Church Council recommends the constitution be amended to add a second called rostered leader, in addition to the Lead Pastor, as a voting member of the Congregational Council.

M/S/P Trinity Congregational Council recommends the Bylaws are amended to be consistent with the revised constitution.

The Council President will appoint a small committee tasked with writing the amendments to the constitution and Bylaws that address this change. Also, the committee will review the August 2022, Columbus, Ohio Churchwide Assembly that approved a model constitution that includes several *required* amendments and recommended amendments to

congregation constitutions. The committee will submit their recommended amendments to the Church Council during the October meeting.

10. Next Council meetings.

6:30 PM, Monday, September 18

Budget working meeting – October

Monday, October 23

Monday, November 20

11. Annual Congregational meeting – Sunday, November 19th

12. Adjournment.

The council meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/ John W. Hodler

Congregational Council Secretary

Electronically signed