

Trinity Lutheran Church Congregation Council Minutes

April 2, 2013

Roll Call/ Declaration of Quorum

	<u>Off in 2014</u>	<u>Off in 2015</u>	<u>Off in 2016</u>
Y Pastor Santoro	Y Mike Kinsey	Y Norm Amundsen	Y Cynthia Breitinger
Y Michael Renehan	Y Gary Behrens	Y Becky Lutz	Y David Burow-Flak
Y Barbara Herzinger	Y Erma Eichhorn	Y Valerie Steil	Y Matt Hernes
	N Kathy Brannen	Y Paul Parsons	Y Jane Schreiner
	N Natalie Lichtenberger, Youth Rep		

Call to Order - 7:07 p.m. - Paul Parsons

Prayer - Pastor

Announcement of intent to retire – Paul read the letter he had received from Pastor Santoro announcing his intent to retire and resign his call as pastor of Trinity Church effective July 1, 2013. The regular agenda was placed on hold as the council took time to respond to the news, congratulate our pastor and prepare for the next steps.

Pastor gave an overview of the process which we can expect to take place within the IK Synod:

- + Bishop Gafkjen or his assistant, Pastor Mueller will contact our council president
- + An interim pastor would be appointed by June 2nd.
- + A call consultant (another pastor) is assigned to help the congregation work through the call process. This includes self-reflection by the congregation & preparation of a detailed congregational profile. The call process would be expected to take a year or longer.
- + A call committee is appointed by the congregation council
- + The synod will send names of matching candidates to the call committee, who will choose the candidates to interview & make a final recommendation to the congregation council.
- + Following the vote of approval by the council, the candidate is presented to the congregation for a vote.
- + The ELCA recommendation is to have an intentional interim period of one month for every year the departing pastor served the congregation.

Pastor further explained the need to separate from the congregation and all pastoral duties at the end of a call. He and the congregation will enter into a Covenant of Separation.

We discussed the response of the council to the congregation. Our objectives will be:

- + To explain the process
 - + To give thanks for Pastor's time of ministry with Trinity
 - + To provide the congregation with opportunities to ask questions and respond to the changes
1. Paul will draft a letter to the congregation, work with Erma and Deaconess Barb for initial edits, then send to council for final review.
 2. Council members will be available to address concerns within the congregation
 3. Consider scheduling one or two Adult Forum sessions to talk with Pastor and to outline what to expect as we move through the process of saying goodbye and preparing to call our next pastor. Deaconess Barb will check with Pat Hellmers about scheduling the sessions and coordinate with Pastor on dates.

4. Pastor's letter to be:
 - a. Sent by regular post this week
 - b. Included in parish notices
 - c. Sent by Constant Contact before the weekend

5. Paul will briefly address the congregation before all services this weekend. Pastor will follow.

Financial Update – Bob Tittle

Bob reviewed the current financial status and possible considerations for cutting costs as presented in the March Finance Committee report. Guidelines for the use of the Mission Endowment Fund were reviewed by Mike Renehan.

9:00 p.m. Motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes – MSC

Ways to cut expenses, project expenses and promote stewardship

Discussion & plans included:

1. Quarterly Financial Statement Mailings – Could the church mailboxes be used? Concerns expressed about confidentiality with this method. Mike Kinsey will work with the Computer & Technology Committee to see about a process for emailing statements.
2. Erma advised that projections for Interim Pastoral salary & expenses are on the IK Synod website.
3. Clarifying Deaconess Barb's role in the upcoming months will be part of our planning.
Ways to reduce the need for a substitute pastor during Pastor's vacation?

9:15 p.m. Motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes – MSC

4. Planned or Estate Giving - consider Thrivent program or workshops offered through the synod.
5. Promotion of *Simply Giving* option. Several council members recently signed on.
6. Luther Road scheduled for VBS – Is it possible to alter or cancel the contract? Deaconess Barb will look into this.
7. Upcoming mailing of Quarterly Giving Statements
 - a. Erma will contact Mike Delliquadri about composing a letter to include.
 - b. A *Simply Giving* form will be included in the mailing.
 - c. Erma will follow-up with Carol regarding assembly of the mailing.
8. Consider forming a Stewardship Team or Task Force
9. PR Focus – Ways to highlight TLC, i.e. display framed photos of Trinity Houses

Grants from the Mission Endowment Fund (from Mission Endowment Fund Committee) for council approval: MSC

- 1. Installation of 95% Efficient Boiler to heat education Wing -- \$12,000**
- 2. Seminarian Tuition Assistance -- \$4,000**
- 3. Gloria Dei Lutheran Hispanic Mission: Valparaiso's Immigrant Families -- \$4,000**

Closing Prayer

Next regular meeting: April 23, 2013 at 7 p.m., Room 103.

Devotion Time:

Adjournment: 9:30 p.m. motion to adjourn. **MSC**

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Breitinger