

Trinity Lutheran Church Congregation Council Minutes

April 23, 2013

Welcome Paul Parsons

Roll Call/ Declaration of Quorum 7:10 p.m.

	<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
	Y Kathy Brannen	Y Paul Parsons	Y Jane Schreiner
	Y Natalie Lichtenberger, Youth Rep		

Prayer Pastor Santoro

Devotion Time *Life Together* pp. 76-89, 90-100. Discussion led by Pastor

Consent Agenda

Reports from 4/2/2013 consent agenda:

February 25th Congregation Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Congregation Council March 17th Special Meeting Minutes
Pastor's Report - April 2, 2013
Finance Committee Report -3/21/2013
Property Committee Report – March 21, 2013
Computers and Technology Report – 3/11/2013
Mission Endowment Fund Report –March 18, 2013

New Reports/Minutes:

Congregation Council Regular Meeting Minutes - April 2, 2013
Computers and Technology Minutes – 04/08/13

Motion to accept reports on the Consent Agenda - MSC

Reports with motions, recommendation, items for discussion

Deaconess' Report – April 23, 2013
Pastor's Report –April 23, 2013
Covenant of Separation & Cover Letter
Finance Committee Minutes – 4/18/2013
Property Committee Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2013
Facility Use Policy – revised 4-16-2013

Reports accepted. Items for discussion included on agenda.

Pastor's Retirement and Trinity's Transition Process

1. **Covenant of Separation** – Pastor explained documents.
 - a. Recommendation from Pastor's Report :
Recommendation: That the Covenant of Separation and cover letter submitted by Pastor Santoro be approved, signed by the president and Pastor Santoro, and implemented upon Pastor Santoro's retirement, July 1, 2013. MSC

- b. Method of communication to the congregation - Covenant of Separation and cover letter to be:
 - (1) Sent by Constant Contact this week
 - (2) Published in Parish Notices next Sunday – April 28th
 - (3) Send by mail at later date – after 5/28/2013 Council meeting

- 2. **Meeting with Bishop Gafkjen** - Special Council meeting with the Bishop, 7:00 p.m., May 16.
Discussion. Plan to summarize meeting and include with above mailing (3).

- 3. **Interim Pastor or Vacancy Pastor (Pulpit Supply) for June**
 - a. Recommendation from Pastor's Report :
Recommendation: That a supply pastor be secured for presiding and preaching at all weekend liturgies June 16, 23, 30. MSC
Note: There will be no Wednesday services during June.

- 4. **Adult Forum** – Open Forum will be scheduled May 12th to discuss transition process and provide congregation with opportunity to talk about reactions to upcoming changes.
Coordinate with Healthy Congregations Task Force for facilitation of discussion.

- 5. **Call Committee** – Paul will place an announcement in Parish Notices for the next two weeks, inviting members to submit names for consideration by Council. Cynthia will keep a list of nominees.

- 6. **Explanation of process for requesting Interim Pastor**– Paul Parsons

Paul outlined the options to provide pastoral leadership in the time between called pastors.
 - a. Rotating Supply Clergy – Does not provide pastoral support beyond worship services. Most congregations find this is not a good solution for more than a few months.
 - b. Interim Clergy – Could be a pastor who is between calls or retired. Would be contracted to supply pastoral care for a defined period. We would need to define expected duties, responsibilities and compensation. The interim is not normally to be considered for a call as the next pastor.
 - c. Intentional Interim – A pastor with additional training in call process and supporting congregations through transition. Requires contract as above. Not available for a call.

- 7. **Communication from Pastor Freda Scales** - Paul read emailed letter from Pastor Scales to Rudy Mueller (cc to Bishop Gafkjen & Paul) offering to serve as Trinity's Interim Pastor.
Proposal from President Parsons:
As a policy of Trinity Lutheran Church, a pastor who has formally served the Congregation as a called leader for Trinity Lutheran Church will not serve as an Interim Pastor.
Discussion of offer, proposal, Trinity's history and vision for the future.

- Motion to adopt:**
Continuing Resolution - C.9.06.A13
In accordance with the recommended practice of the IN-KY Synod and the ELCA, a pastor who has previously been called by Trinity Lutheran Church shall not serve as interim pastor.
MSC

- 8. **Farewell Event for Pastor and Linda** - Valerie Steil will contact Lene Behrens, Cheryl Dieter and Valerie Webdell. Deaconess Barb and Mike Renehan offered to assist. Date – June 2nd.

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

Old Business

1. **Healthy Congregations/ Re-structuring Task Force** - Update provided by Erma. Valerie Webdell has submitted a printed update for the Parish Notices. Copies of the Mission Statement are being framed for display throughout the building. A bulletin board for information from Asset Mapping will be installed in the foyer hallway. Next Task Force meeting is 5/5/2013.
2. **TLC Pre-School Task Force** - Deaconess Barb will schedule a task force meeting.
3. **Open Door Policy** – Becky Lutz inquired about the status of lock/keypad system investigation. Open Door Task Force January 24, 2013 report to be placed on agenda for 5/28/2013 Council meeting.

New Business

1. **Facility Use Policy** – recommendations from Finance Committee regarding charges and motion from Property Committee received.

Motion from the Property Committee for Facility Use Policy revision:

The Property Committee recommends that the attached Facility Use Policy be approved by the Council with modifications that the Council deems necessary.

Council members to review policy recommendation for future consideration. David Burow-Flak agreed to review contract.

2. **VBS** – Finance Committee recommended canceling contact with Luther Road in an effort to reduce the program's \$3,500 expense.
Deaconess Barb reported on discussion with youth & parents. The group felt that Luther Road provided not only programming for elementary age students, but also important mentoring connections for youth. Youth and parents offered to do extra fund-raising to off-set some of the expense of the Luther Road contract.
Discussion followed of additional actions which could assist with funding – promotion of opportunities to sponsor a child, inviting parents/caregivers to contribute to program cost at registration, designating an offering toward program expenses and offering a CD at a nominal cost.

9:32 p.m. - Motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes. MSC

3. Amendments to Parish Constitution & Bylaws

Refer to Pastor's report for details of the following proposed amendments.

Recommendation: That the Congregation Council call a special congregational meeting, May 23, immediately following worship, for the purpose of considering the following amendments to our parish constitution.

Recommendation: That the Congregation Council call a special congregational meeting, May 23, immediately following worship, for the purpose of considering the following bylaws to our parish constitution.

Recommendations to be considered at a future date. No vote this evening.

Financial Report – Mike Renehan

Date of next regular meeting – May 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., Room 103 (church library)

Devotions: *Life Together* pages 100-109.

Closing prayer – Deaconess Barb

Motion to Adjourn - 9:45 p.m. MSC

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia T. Breitingger