

Trinity Lutheran Church Congregation Council Minutes

Special Meeting on finances – August 26, 2013

Welcome Paul Parsons, Council President

Roll Call/ Declaration of Quorum 7:07 p.m.

	<u>Off in 2014</u>	<u>Off in 2015</u>	<u>Off in 2016</u>
Y Pastor Jane Aicher	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	N Valerie Steil	Y Matt Hernes
	Y Kathy Brannen	Y Paul Parsons	Y Jane Schreiner
	Y Natalie Lichtenberger, Youth Rep.		

Representatives from Finance Committee:

Bob Tittle, Chair
Mike Delliquadri

Reports/Handouts for meeting:

Spreadsheet with trend comparisons years 2007-2013

Finance Committee Report – 8/21/2013

Four New Options, Same Health Benefits- from the 2014 Open Enrollment guide for ELCA

Review of Reports/Handouts, Discussion and Motions:

Items below are not necessarily presented in the order of discussion or final vote.

From the Finance Committee Report (FCR):

All bills are currently being paid with the current level of giving. Almost no surplus is left after paying the bills and the Church has no reserve to cover any unexpected expense. In 2010 \$20,000 was taken from the Endowment Fund as the Endowment Fund had received \$20,000 in excess proceeds from the sale of the property at 56 Chicago. This money along with \$12,000 taken from the Memorial Fund in 2012 and \$14,000 taken from the Memorial Fund in 2013 was placed in the General Fund to pay bills. Without these additional funds we would not have been able to pay all our bills.

In order to have a cushion should unforeseen expenses occur the Finance Committee recommends that \$40,000 be taken from the Endowment Fund, which has a current balance of \$482,389 and be placed in the General Fund to be used for emergency purposes. \$40,000 is approximately 10 percent of the 2013 budget which is \$394,356 and is close to the \$46,000 provided from outside sources since 2010 which is described in the preceding paragraph. This money would be placed in the restricted funds area of the General Fund and could only be used with permission of the Church Council Executive Committee. These emergency purposes would be to pay salaries and keep the Church operating. This money would not be used for any special projects. This would require a vote of the congregation in a special congregational meeting as current rules for use of money from the Endowment Fund do not allow for use in the General Fund. The Finance Committee requests this meeting be scheduled as soon as possible.

The information in the previous paragraph is presented to the Church Council as a motion.

1. Motion to amend the motion from the Finance Committee to:

The Finance Committee recommends that \$40,000 be taken from the Endowment Fund earnings to be used for emergency purposes. This money would be placed in the restricted funds area of the General Fund and could only be used with permission of the Church Council Executive Committee.

Motion to amend: MSC.

Vote on amended motion: MSC, one vote opposed.

Discussion: A 2 week notice would be required to the congregation in order to call a special congregational meeting. Dates were not discussed.

(Note: Upon further review at the 10-22-2013 Council meeting, a motion was passed to vacate the vote on the above motion and not to proceed with this action.)

Employee Health Plan Study Recommended

The Finance Committee recommends a study of changes in the health plan for employees, which is necessary due to the changes in the 2014 ELCA-Primary health benefits from one option to four. This study must be done with recommendations by 10/14/2013 to allow members to enroll between 11/1/2013 to 11/22/2013. To maintain essentially the same plan as is now in place would cost \$1,837 per month. The current plan costs \$1,587 per month. This would be an increase of \$250 per month or \$3,000 per year. There is a higher cost plan with a lesser deductible and two lower cost plans that are paired with a health savings account. (FCR)

2. Motion to initiate a study as recommended by the Finance Committee of changes in the health plan for employees, which is necessary due to the changes in the 2014 ELCA-Primary health benefits from one option to four. MSC

Comprehensive Study Recommended

The Finance Committee recommends a study take place to determine the mission of the church and what the church can afford. This study should include a review of all programs and staff. This study is necessary due to the declining attendance and income. (FCR)

3. Amended to:

The Finance Committee recommends a study to determine what the church can afford to accomplish its mission. MC

Discussion – The meeting’s discussion included financial considerations which must be addressed before the congregation will be in a position to call a new pastor, questions about supporting a pre-school, stewardship and how to determine a reasonable budget going forward. The \$6,000 reserve for replacement was never funded. Trends for attendance, income and expenses 2007-present were reviewed. Current average attendance is 150 -170 per week. Refer to spreadsheet & FCR for details and summary.

Mike Delliquadri reminded us that what works in a church is a solidified, common mission.

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

Jane Schreiner offered a brief summary of the meeting held last week with Pastor Scales. Jane, Pastor Aicher, Paul and Cynthia met with Pastor Scales at Christ Lutheran. Pastor Scales stated she has determined it is best that she no longer offer pastoral care to Trinity members and will cease from doing so.

Financial Reports – received

Date of next regular meeting – September 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., Room 103 (church library)

Closing prayer – Pastor Jane

9:04 p.m. Motion to Adjourn. MSC

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia T. Breiting