

Trinity Lutheran Church Congregation Council Minutes

September 24, 2013

Welcome Paul Parsons, Council President

Roll Call/ Declaration of Quorum 7:01 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	N Gary Behrens	N Becky Lutz	Y David Burow-Flak
N Barbara Herzinger	Y Erma Eichhorn	Y Valerie Steil	Y Matt Hernes
	N Kathy Brannen	Y Paul Parsons	Y Jane Schreiner
	Y Natalie Lichtenberger, Youth Rep		

Prayer – Pastor Jane

Presentation Multi-Congregation Lutheran Parishes

Rev. Roger Storms, Christ Lutheran Church in Hammond

Handouts: *The shrinking church*, article from *The Lutheran*, January 2013

Multi-Congregation Lutheran Parish Proposal

Northwest Indiana Conference – Worship Attendance 2008/2010/2011

Consent Agenda

- + Trinity Lutheran Church Congregation Council Minutes, August 20, 2013
- + Trinity Lutheran Church Congregation Council Minutes – Special meeting on finances – August 26, 2013
- + Deaconess Report – September 24, 2013
- + Trinity Church Computers and Technology Committee – August Activity Report – 9/9/2013
- + Healthy Congregations Task Force Report 9/15/2013
- + Employee Insurance Task Force Report 9/19/2013
- + TLC (Pre-School)Task Force Report – 9/24/2013

RE: Deaconess Report – Questions were raised concerning the current status of Washington Street doors on Sunday. Are the doors open until confirmation or locked after services? Discussion of the upcoming opening of Open Arms shelter and hours of service followed.

Motion: When the Open Arms Overnight Shelter program opens at Trinity for the 2013/2014 season, hours and procedures will follow the Open Arms Handbook policy guidelines for entry and exit, 6 p.m. entry and 7 a.m. exit. MSC

Motion that the building is to be locked on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. by security beginning on October 13th. MSC

Leaders for Sunday evening programs are to be responsible for permitting access to the building. Pastor Jane will do a Parish Notice about the Sunday locking.

Pastor's Report – copies distributed.

Pastor Jane reported that the Stephen Ministers have asked if they can take communion to the homebound. These would be consecrated elements from our Eucharist celebration. New portable communion sets would need to be purchased. One older set was found in storage. Council advised that consideration should be given to asking for a special offering or donations to make the purchase. The Memorial Fund currently has a zero balance. Pastor Jane will work with the Stephen Ministers to present the concept to the congregation.

Pastor Jane will be supervising Deaconess students and asked council's consent to use her Trinity office as a meeting place with the students. This would be outside of her work as our Interim Pastor. Council agreed this was a welcome use of the space and that it upholds Trinity's longstanding support of the LDA and of students following calls to service in the Church.

Pastor Jane provided council with a one page summary of Parliamentary Procedure. (Your secretary, for one, will find the reference very handy as a date with Robert is long overdue!)

Motion to approve council minutes and accept reports - MSC

Motions before the council:

From the Employee Insurance Task Force:

Motion to Council: For 2014 Trinity Lutheran Church shall provide for its employees who qualify for ELCA-Primary health benefits through Portico the Silver Level C option.

Enrollment is November 1-22, 2013. MSC

Vote was preceded by a review of a Portico health plan comparison chart prepared by Erma & a summary of the meeting of the Employee Insurance Task Force and its recommendation presented by Cynthia. Task force to follow-up with employees regarding council decision.

Old Business

Facility Use Policy - postponed until October

TLC (Preschool) Task Force – Update provided by Paul, Erma and Norm. See report for details. Great work everyone! Additionally, Nancy will be adding a second signatory to the TLC checking account. The task force will continue to meet and outline next steps in building this relationship.

From the Task Force to Study the Relationship Between Trinity Church and Tender Loving Care (TLC) Preschool – recommendation presented to council on June 25, 2013:

Recommendation to Council:

That Tender Loving Care Preschool is a ministry of Trinity Church. The school is dedicated to encouraging spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and social growth in all children within a Christian environment.

Discussion on the implication of identifying the preschool as a *ministry* of Trinity Church & the impact this may have on the community identity of the school as being inter-faith welcoming. Regarding curriculum, sentiment was that perhaps at this time, there was no need to alter the established model. Agreed to change language to a *ministry of hospitality*.

Motion to amend to:

That Tender Loving Care Preschool is a ministry of hospitality of Trinity Church. The school is dedicated to encouraging spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and social growth in all children within a Christian environment. MSC as amended.

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

Fall Stewardship – Cynthia & Valerie will meet with Cheryl Dieter to continue planning. Commitment Weekend is November 16th & 17th Focus will be on Trinity's thanksgiving for where we've been; who we are and where we are going. Focus sparked by the August 20th council meeting outlining the recommended preparation work for a congregation before entering the call process.

Financial Report – Mike Renehan. Reports reviewed

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

Upcoming Business

1. Finance Committee Recommendations /Mission Endowment Fund - Paul asked for volunteers to serve on a Task Force to prepare for a possible congregational meeting.
2. 2014 Budget
3. Nominating Committee for 2014 Council

Date of next regular meeting – October 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., Room 103 (church library)

Minutes and reports are requested no later than Friday, Oct. 18th.

Send by email to ctbreitinger@frontier.com

Devotions for next meeting -

Closing prayer

Adjournment – 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia T. Breitinger