

Trinity Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2022

Mission: Trinity Lutheran is a place to gather, refresh the faithful, and reach out with word and service to all others through the Holy Gospel
Guiding Principles

1. *God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*
2. *Preach and teach the Good News to everyone*
3. *Witness your faith through actions and words*
4. *Accept and welcome all people*

Goals for 2022:

1. *Clean up financial processes and reporting;*
2. *Emphasize faith stories: in circles, in worship, online and about giving.*

[Prior to the beginning of the business meeting, Tami McHugh (Treasurer of Northwest Intermountain Synod) provided an explanation of federal taxation of clergy and how that works in our synod. She provided 3 informative handouts.]

I.) **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by Jerry Armbrust. Also present: Karissa Armbrust, Edith Hannett, Pastor Meggan Manlove, Dean Metzger, Carl Radke, David Sheriff, and Penelope Smith. Guests: Tami McHugh, Phil Cronk, and Evan Moilan (via Zoom). Absent: Sandy Blom, Mwajuma Dusabe, Amanda Hanson, A quorum (7) was met.

II.) **Opening Devotions** – were omitted due to the length of the meeting

III.) **Approve June Agenda** – Pastor asked that Myrtle Collaboration be added under new business X.) d. Edith moved that the amended agenda be approved; Dean seconded; motion carried.

IV.) **May Minutes** – had been approved by an email vote on June 1st.

V.) **Review and Approve May Treasurer's Report** – Karissa explained the financials, including bar graphs and pie charts showing income and expenses. Penelope moved to approve the May Treasurer's Report; Carl seconded; motion carried.

VI.) **Pastor and Team Reports** – Nothing was highlighted

VII.) **Trinity New Hope** – is using money donated through Avenues for Hope to work on landscaping projects. Property manager noted that TNH is housing its first City of Nampa employee, a further illustration that people who need affordable housing are not “different” or “other”.

VIII.) **Goals for 2022 – Goal 1) a.** Tami McHugh discussed clergy taxation prior to the start of the business meeting.

Goal 1) b. The Wells Fargo account signers have been changed, with Karissa added. In May, Council had voted to approve a pre-loaded debit card, but that is not an option with this Wells account. Dean moved that, instead, we purchase a pre-loaded cash card within the parameters of the youth trip budget; Jerry seconded; motion carried.

Goal 1) c. The Mountain West account (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) also needs to have signers changed. Dean moved that the signers for the Mountain West account be changed, removing the name of prior Treasurer Lloyd Kellar and adding the name of current Treasurer Karissa Armbrust; Jerry seconded; motion carried. Dean moved that we close the Mountain West account (formerly used for the PPP loan money) and that the balance of \$30.30 be put into general fund; Jerry seconded; motion carried.

Goal 2) a. Author Mark Yaconelli will be in the area October 15-16. We could consider using some of the Myrtle Collaboration money to host a workshop on story-telling, led by him. This will be further discussed later.

IX.) **Old Business –**

- a) **Sidewalks around the church lawn** – Jerry noted that Darrel Miller is working on this project.
- b) **Rebuilding Hospitality ministry** – Amanda and Sandy were absent; Edith indicated this task force had not yet met. Holding additional events similar to the popular Food Trucks and Lawn Games was discussed. Dean will check into the availability of meals prepared by culinary students from Elevate Academy.
- c) **Partnership with West Middle School** – Pastor has had further discussions with the West librarian, asking what Trinity can do to be of help. The librarian indicated that getting middle schoolers to read more would be appreciated. Students in this age group prefer graphic novels. One idea would be for Trinity to provide space for an after-school reading group which the librarian would lead, with a Trinity volunteer as a second adult and cookies available (similar to how math tutoring was handled). Another idea would be for Trinity to donate elementary school books that could be given to English-as-a second-language students who are refugees from Colombia. In addition, a student from Lone Star Middle School is looking for a site for an after-school book group. Perhaps that could be combined with the group from West.

X.) **New Business -**

- a. **Stewardship for All Seasons** – Evan Moilan, one of the GSB consultants, join by Zoom, giving an overview of the two-year program which aims to engage generosity in the life of the congregation. Several key aspects include communicating with people in ways relevant to their current giving status; talking about giving from an inspirational perspective (rather than transactional); telling stories about the impact of the gifts they give; discussing proposed budget increases in weekly (vs yearly) increments. Homework for Council is to identify three ministry initiatives for 2023: one internal, one

external, and one ministry excellence. These can be brand new initiatives or increased spending to improve a current ministry.

b. Recommendations from the Year 2020 Final Audit Report – Karissa went through the report, highlighting which recommendations are being implemented. The purchase of the most recent version of QuickBooks has been delayed so that the transition will occur effective 1.1.2023. There is just one outstanding check from the prior year; Karissa is working with the new coordinator of The House Next Door on this. The new procedure on check signing has been implemented. SOPs are being updated. Council will ask the nominating committee to find someone willing to be on the Audit Committee. Then Council can elect the committee members, per the process outlined in the constitution.

c. Review of the Gift Acceptance Policy – will be done at a future meeting.

d. Myrtle Collaboration Gift - was further explained. Dean moved that \$1000 of that \$5000 gift be used to pay for Trinity's portion of the first year cost of Stewardship for All Seasons (the balance of which is being paid through a \$2500 grant from Synod); Jerry seconded; motion carried. It was noted that Pastor Meggan had written the \$12,500 Synod grant for the 5 congregations, and that her participation with other faith leaders in the "Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative" yielded the \$5000 gift. These meant an additional \$7,500 for Trinity to use in ministry, beyond what was budgeted. Jerry and Sarah Henthorn, 2021 Council President, will make sure this is celebrated at "Kick-Off Sunday" in September.

XI.) **Lord's Prayer** –

XII.) **Adjournment** – Jerry moved the meeting be adjourned; Edith seconded; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry at 8:56 pm.

Penelope J Smith, June 21, 2022