

Trinity Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
October 18, 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.*

- I.) **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Carl Radke. Also present: Karissa Armbrust, Mwajuma Dusabe, Edith Hannett, Amanda Hanson, Pastor Meggan Manlove, Dean Metzger, David Sheriff, and Penelope Smith. Absent: Jerry Armbrust and Sandy Blom. A quorum (6) was met.
- II.) **Opening Devotions** – by Dean Metzger on servant leadership compared with the human desire to be thought of as great.
- III.) **Approve October Agenda** – Pastor asked that b. Apostolic Church be added under Old Business and d. Worship Protocols be added under New Business. Dean moved that the amended agenda be approved; Pastor seconded; motion carried.
- IV.) **September Minutes** – The last name of “Trude” was added to Loni’s first name under X). c. Dean moved the amended September minutes be approved; Pastor seconded; motion carried.
- V.) **Review and Approve September Treasurer’s Report** – Karissa presented the financials. Discussed Audit Committee recommendation that the check signer’s manifest be crosschecked with the bank statement or Quickbooks report. The audit covered 2021 processes, and those processes have been updated. Karissa will check with Audit Committee to determine if this protocol is needed now, with the new processes. Penelope moved the September Treasurer report be approved; David seconded; motion carried.
- VI.) **Pastor and Team Reports** – Pastor noted that West Middle School’s 21st Century (reading) club is being reorganized, so meetings at Trinity are on hold.
- VII.) **Trinity New Hope** – There is water damage in unit #5. The Board will meet on November 9th. Meanwhile, Board members are talking with state legislators about supporting proposed legislation related to housing nonprofits.
- VIII.) **Goals for 2022 – Goal 1) Financials** – Synod Assembly will again be held in person in 2023, so there needs to be a budget line item to cover these expenses. The cost of the ICON software will increase. Penelope will remind committees that their budget requests need to be given to Karissa by November 7th. Council will review the proposed budget, discuss salaries,

and vote on the proposed budget on December 20th.

Goal 2) Storytelling – Fall Stewardship - Penelope explained the progress on the fall financial appeal including storytelling elements. Radkes will talk about Faith Formation on October 23rd; Sarah Henthorn will talk about Tough Conversations on October 30th; Dean agreed to talk about Sustaining Ministry Excellence (inflation factor) on November 6th. Professionally printed materials were displayed and the timeline was described.

Trinity Submissions - Dean typed up the stories submitted in February. Council members were asked to look more closely, determining if they identify any additional themes. One way to use this information would be to create audio recordings of those submissions, read by their authors, had have this as background sound for some still photographs.

IX.) **Old Business –**

a) Rebuilding Hospitality Ministry – Pastor will call a meeting for 11:20 am on October 23rd with Sandy and Edith to organize a calendar of hospitality-type events, including those organized by other teams.

b) Apostolic Hispanic Church – Pastor and Dean met with Pastor Jose. His church needs additional space for faith formation activities. They find Trinity to better meet their current needs which include a sanctuary, some storage, a classroom, and the kitchen. Council felt that, considering they currently pay \$500/month for a much smaller facility, Trinity should start negotiations at \$1000 or \$1100/month, but be willing to negotiate to a lower number that is not less than \$800/month.

X.) **New Business -**

a. Luther Heights Bible Camp ByLaw Changes - The draft of bylaw changes was reviewed and discussed. Pastor Meggan moved that Trinity Lutheran Church accept the proposal that makes changes to C.4011, C.4013, C.4022, and C.5011 of the Luther Heights Bible Camp bylaws. Edith seconded; motion carried.

b. Calendar - Pastor noted the October 22nd morning event at Hope/Eagle, open to all. Luther Heights Bible Camp will hold its annual meeting online on December 5th. Planned but not yet scheduled in January 2023 will be a Cluster Meeting. There will be the Bishop's election in 2023, and Clusters are encouraged to nominate up to three candidates for Bishop.

c. Atlas Tower Proposal – This company has asked Trinity to consider leasing 50' x 50' of our land to them so they can place a cell phone tower on it. This would be on a 20 year renewable lease, paying \$900/month or a lump sum of \$175,000. Council's consensus was to not follow up on this request.

d. Worship Protocols – Worship and Music/Altar Guild met on October 17th, reviewed current worship protocols, and made suggestions for some changes. These included: 1) having Pastor stop wearing gloves during Communion; 2) continuing current way of “passing the peace”; 3) resume circulating the offering plates and noisy offering cans; 4) giving greeters the option to offer handshakes if they feel comfortable doing so; 5) hand sanitizer before Communion would be offered, but optional. Council concurred with most of these, but most would like to move toward return to our previous way of passing the peace. Council supports having people stay in their pew areas, but allowing hand shakes and hugs for those who feel comfortable doing so.

Pastor has been exploring other grant opportunities, including getting funding for participation in the Fresh Expressions program related to new and evolving ways of “being church”.

XI.) **Lord’s Prayer** –

XII.) **Adjournment** - Dean moved and Pastor seconded that the meeting be adjourned; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by Carl at 8:40 pm.

Penelope J Smith, October 18, 2022