

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446-1998

Minutes of Congregation Council Meeting of April 12, 2010

The Council meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Teri Lanan, Co-President.

Absences: Steven Hull, Peter Patkos and John Kunes.

Visitors: Pastor Andy Carlsson, Mary Kieras, and Terri Gillespie

The meeting was opened with devotions by Mark Ristine.

The agenda was revised to include approval of three Endowment Program requests and approval for Synod Assembly attendance, and was then approved as presented.

The minutes from the March Council meeting were approved as written (Olson/Kesselmayr).

Correspondence: - copies were circulated.

Code Blue Report

Terri Gillespie was present to give a Code Blue update. 22 individual men were present over 48 nights. There were approximately 100 active volunteers from nine congregations.

Financial Forum Presentation

Teri Lanan showed Council the presentation from the Financial Forums and the feedback received from the Forums was discussed, as well as the eight bulleted follow up steps noted on the Elements of a Plan to Move Forward and how this fits in with what the Transition Team will be doing.

Council Action Items

Approve Action Plan Elements from Financial Forums

**Highlight: A motion was passed (with one abstention) to endorse the Elements of a Plan to Move Forward Concept (Birenbaum/Strobel).**

The plan will need to be publicized and will involve assembling work groups. A sign-up sheet was circulated to sign up to head or participate in one of the work groups.

Approve Transition Team Roster

**Highlight: A motion passed unanimously to approve the following Transition Team Roster: Joe Toy, Karin Clark, Daniel Hyson, Kelsey Trumpp, Julie Kinzel, Jean Birenbaum, Erik Nelson, Heide Pickens, Alan Mulford, Margaurite Hanna, Dick Dressel and Mary Kieras (McHale/Turner).**

Their first meeting will be April 15<sup>th</sup> and they will be installed on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Approve Applying \$30,000 Bequest to General Fund

Per Pastor Wolford's recommendation:

**Highlight: A motion passed unanimously to approve applying Irene Barndt's bequest of \$30,000 to General Fund (Cassa/Birenbaum).**

It was suggested that the bequest be noted in the Trinity Weekly or Lansdale Lutheran.

Approve Changing Fiscal Year Back to Calendar Year

**Highlight: A motion passed unanimously to approve changing the fiscal year back to calendar year (Turner/McGuire).**

This will require requesting out-going Council members to extend their terms of office through December if they wish. It will also require the moving of the Annual Meeting. A discussion was held regarding moving the Annual Meeting back to January as before, or per Pastor Carlsson's suggestion – to have the meeting in November so the budget can be approved before money is spent against the new budget. Executive Council will look into this.

#### Endowment Requests

**Highlight: A motion passed (with one no vote) to approve \$1,000 to Seamen's Church from Global Outreach Fund (Cassa/Strobel).** This is missionary outreach to seaman who dock in Philadelphia.

**Highlight: A motion passed (with one no vote) to approve \$500 to Code Blue Lower Bucks County from Local Outreach Fund (Butt/McHale).**

**Highlight: A motion passed unanimously to approve \$780 for Pre-School Continuing Education Courses from Discretionary Fund (Turner/Birenbaum).** This will permit one of the Pre-School teachers to remain certified.

#### Synod Assembly Participants

**Highlight: A motion passed (with two abstentions) to approve Synod Assembly attendance for the following five lay members: Karen Strobel, Deb Neves, Mark Ristine, Curt Jorgensen and Maddie Butt (Kesselmayer/Pinther).**

#### New Business

##### Preschool Budget

John Benavage reviewed the reasoning behind the Finance Committee's recommendation that there be, at minimum, a breakeven Preschool budget. Lisa Corr and Judi Meyer responded with their thoughts. Lisa reported she felt the projected deficit for this year would be lower than the Finance Committee's projection. She estimates a \$6,692 deficit. The school is 77% full (65 families) for next year and needs nine more students to break even. Lisa and Judi discussed other ways that they felt a balanced budget could be achieved. It needs to be determined what is Trinity's policy on and relationship to the PreSchool - is it a program or ministry? Also, there were questions on why the Pre-School was incorporated into Trinity's budget in the past. Since there needs to be agreed upon deficit numbers, Mike, Lisa and Judi need to meet to resolve questions before Council can vote.

Staff & Committee Reports - Questions? Comments? - Note: In the effort to streamline our meeting, Council members and staff are expected to have read these reports and to come prepared to comment or raise questions.

#### Staff Reports:

Statistical - See copy of written report dated March 2010.

Pastor Wolford – See copy of written report dated March 2010.

Pastor Malloy – See copy of written report dated April, 2010.

Pastor Eisenhart – See copy of written report dated April, 2010.

Diaconal Minister – See copy of written report dated March 2010.

Dir. for Early Learning – See copy of written report dated March 2010.

Dir. for Christian Education – See copy of written report dated March 2010.

Dir for Student Ministry – See copy of written report dated April 2010.

Dir. for Communication – See copy of written report dated March 2010.

Music Ministry – See copy of written report dated March, 2010.

Dir. for Lay Ministry – See copy of written report dated March 2010.

Dir. for Finance & Administration – See copy of written report dated March 2010.

Mgr. for Buildings and Grounds – See copy of written report dated March 2010.

#### Standing Committee Reports:

Executive Committee – See copy of written report dated April 8, 2010.

Communications – No written report.

Congregational Enrichment – No written report.

Endowment Program Committee – See copy of written report dated March 8, 2010.

Evangelism Committee – No written report.

Finance – See copy of written report dated March 29, 2010.

Global Mission Committee – No written report.

Hospitality – See copy of written report dated March 2, 2010.

Singles Ministry – No written report.

Social Ministry – No written report.

Volunteer Ministry – See copy of written report dated March 9 and March 30, 2010.

Also included: Report from Andrew Carlsson, Interim Consultant, dated March 1, 2010.

Report on the Financial Forums, dated April 8, 2010.

Stephen Ministry Leaders' Meeting Minutes dated March 22, 2010.

Women of the ELCA Board Meeting dated March 18, 2010.

Discussion/questions on the reports – Question on criteria that should be used for writing reports.

Suggestions made were to include statistical data and to match to job description.

**Action Item: email Dave Olson your input (bullet points) of what you want to see on the reports within the next two weeks.**

Celebrations/Concerns were shared.

#### Updates

- Phone-a-thon information will be distributed.
- Small Group Ministry: April 24<sup>th</sup> is cancelled. Will wait until Transition event.
- Interim/Transition Process: first meeting of team is April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Unity Sunday: Pastor Eisenhart reported since this is an unfavorable time to have this, it will be permanently tabled.
- Rev. Mark and Marcia Holman are ending their service in Jerusalem on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Happenings: See those noted on Agenda. Additional happenings: New Members Class is May 1<sup>st</sup> instead of April 17<sup>th</sup>.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> is deadline for Mothers Day blanket appeals. There will be a Fathers Day appeal going towards housing in June.

There will be a May Day celebration of Trinity families on May 2<sup>nd</sup> along with Yellow Pages Fair. April 18<sup>th</sup> is 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Martin Ott organ – if you would like to bake a cake for the 4/18 organ performance by Isabelle Demers, let Cricket know.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dianne Kalb, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting: Monday, May 3, 2010**  
**Devotions: Dot McHale    Snack & Beverage: Paul Pinther**