

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2022**  
**Reporting: Rita Gibbs**

**Present:** Scott Fichtner, Kayla Siewert, Rita Gibbs, Jeff Feder, Jim Timmerman, Nancy Kruger, Carolyn Dobler, Pastor Joy Ekstedt

**Absent:** Meredith Young, Alie Hermanson, Cathy Carlson, Sarah Nelson, Pastor Nikoli Falenschek

**Devotions:** Nancy Kruger

**A. Business Discussed:**

**1. Pastor Joy's Report**

- Pastoral care – visits with members over the phone, in the office, and at care facilities.
- Funeral planning conversations with Leona Miller's family and with Adeline Asleson's family.
- Led two Grace Street Bible studies. It has been great to be "in person" with people in these studies. We will now take a break until September.
- May 4 led the last Spring 2022 class lessons for 5-6 grade confirmation students and for 7-8 grade confirmation students.
- Led new member orientation.
- Attended Trinity's WELCA Spring Fling event Saturday, May 14. After not having this event that last few years, it was wonderful to have the women meet for fellowship again. Beth Winterfeldt was the guest speaker, sharing her work in making housing a reality for people.
- Joined the Simpson Forum Planning team for their meeting. Decisions have been made about the topic and the dates for the 2023 event.
- Prayers and blessings were offered for TLC's 2022 graduates. The seniors did a great job in participating in the service. A big thank you to Eva Kracht for sharing her life of faith with us.
- Kayla (VP and Chair of Personnel Committee) and I met with Jen Hubrig for her exit interview.
- Thanks to the anti-racism team for planning and holding a picnic Sunday. While the weather didn't cooperate for a meal outside, those who stayed for the meal made things bring and cheery inside!
- Summer worship schedule began May 29. Members are already asking to have coffee served after worship instead of/or along with coffee at 8:30
- This summer needs to be a time for staff and council to consider how we go about our mission in this time and place and also re-engaging members of the congregation. I'm working on that and soon will be drawing others into the conversation.
- Will be taking vacation June 18-25.

**2. Pastor Nikoli's Report**

- Baccalaureate: Our graduation service was held on May 22 @11am. I'm so proud of this year's graduates and am grateful that so many of them came out to worship together! We forgot to put out their gift bags on the morning of the 22nd, so Kristie or I will hand deliver them to those who were able to join us for the service. For those unable to make it on the 22nd, they'll be invited to stop by the church to not only pick up their gift bag, but also pick out a quilt. Thank you Quilting Group for donating such gorgeous quilts to these young folx!
- Confirmation: We ended up having our penultimate class in the basement of the church because of inclement weather. This was not the ideal way to finish our year of learning, but I'm grateful for the adult leaders present for their dedication to keeping us safe and parents informed. The year-end party was a great success, a lot of fun, and a good way to close the year. The 8th graders began thinking through their Confirmation projects while on retreat at Gustavus earlier in the year—periodically throughout the summer, I'll convene these students to continue these plans.
- Lunch With A Pastor: This program has yet to happen over an actual lunch, lol, but our winners nevertheless had lots of fun bowling at WowZone!
- Vacation: I am planning vacation for July 26-28.

- Summer Bonfire Worship: Pending approval of the proposed endowment request, we will host Bonfire Worship on June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3, and August 17 at 7pm.
- Earn2Own Program: Pending approval of the proposed endowment request, the Earn2Own program will continue in 2022 with five spots for guitar players and three spots for cajon players (I already have one of each wanting to participate). With the aid from the Synod grant, we will be able to cover two lessons per month for each musician at Scheitels, who will bill us as these are scheduled.
- Pastor Nikoli added that Meghan Beran would like to share about her recent trip to Ukraine with a Peace & Healing message and photos during the sermon time on June 19<sup>th</sup>. They also discussed offering that day go to a mission correlated and possible matched donation from TLC, both tbd

### 3. Treasurer's Report

- Offerings through May were \$147,518.
- Total expenses through May have been \$210,732
- The budgeted amount through May was \$215,196. Expenses are running \$4,464 below the budgeted amount through May.
- The Controlled Savings Balance was \$171,169
- The Bank Balance at the end of May was \$15,199

### 4. Finance Committee Report

- It has been recommended by the Finance committee, along with the treasurer and the financial administrator, to apply for a Line of Credit for operating expenses.
- Julie got information about a Line of Credit. Trinity can get a Line of Credit up to \$75,000 with interest rate of prime rate plus 1.25%. This would be unsecured. **See Action Item 3.**
  - Reviewed the treasurer's month over month report for the past two years
    - taking into consideration the overlap in wages for both Jen and Julie, the payroll transition equated approximately \$14,000; an expense that will not be ongoing
  - The Rental Income Fund and Building Fund are sources, that are not endowment funds, that can be borrowed from in temporary short-term situations if needed, with the plan to repay those funds
- Pastor Nikoli submitted an endowment request for \$3,500 for expenses related to the Earn2Own program and bonfire worships for the summer
  - Funds may come from CYF or General endowments
  - The Endowment Report was presented for review.

### 5. Guest – Megan Beran

- a. She shared about her trip to Ukraine and some of the information she plans to share in her presentation during next Sunday's worship service.

### 6. Committee Reports

- Property Committee: They are getting a few quotes for roofing options. The new office carpet is installed. They are getting quotes for HVAC system.
- Community Life: They will be giving out cupcakes for Father's Day. Looking into a bicycling group and a Faith night for a Moon Dogs game.
- Children, Youth and Family: No report.
- Worship, Music and Arts: No report.
- Mission: Trinity is renewing our part in the South Africa Vyhried Circuit. Bill Nelson represented Trinity at the most recent gathering.
- Adult Education: No report.
- Stewardship: They will be reviewing the Time & Talent sheets for a volunteer booklet.

## B. Actions Taken:

1. **Motion M/S/P to approve the agenda for the June Council meeting.**
2. **Motion M/S/P to approve the minutes of the May Council meeting.**

3. **Motion M/S/P to approve applying for the Line of Credit of \$75,000 at First National Bank with Bob Broeder to have authorized signature for Trinity Lutheran Church.**
4. **Motion to approve using funds from the Building Improvement funds with the restriction to retain a minimum of \$40,000 in this fund with Julie using her discretion for the day-to-day operations.**
  - **Amendment to the Motion - If Trinity needs additional operating funds we will; 1st use the Rental Houses funds using the portion set aside for church use if there is a shortage of operating funds.**
  - **If the Rental Houses fund is depleted, then 2<sup>nd</sup> the Building Improvement funds will be used to cover a shortage in funds. Leaving a minimum of \$40,000 remaining in the Building Improvement funds.**
  - **If the Building Improvement funds are used down to \$40,000 remaining, then 3<sup>rd</sup> Trinity will use the Line of Credit to operate.**
  - **The amended motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

C. **Next meeting:** Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 6:30 pm