

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 16, 2026**

**Voting Council members present:** John Hodler, Bill Bjorum, Jill Longnecker, Kirsten Parker, Shane Brockshus, Bryan Barts, Pastor Jen Hackbarth.

**Non-voting Council member present:** Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman

**Location:** Trinity Lutheran Church office conference room

**\*Business conducted prior to the February meeting:**

- On 2/2/26, Kirsten provided the Council an update on ongoing business of a project proposal; as this had been recently discussed at January's meeting, this business was continued via email.
- Kirsten moved to approve a submitted project proposal to allow the use of Trinity's greenspace for a Pride event on June 16, 2026, co-hosted by Hudson Pride Co. and the Trinity Pride Justice Team (John second/Passed by majority on 2/9/26 – Bryan & Shane no vote).

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by President John Hodler

**I. Consent Agenda** – (Kirsten motion/Bill second/Passed unanimously)

- Approval of January 19, 2026 Council minutes
- Approval of February 16, 2026 meeting agenda

**II. Pastoral updates**

- Motion made by Bill to approve the contract offer to Kristine Stedje for the position of Interim Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation (Jill second/Passed unanimously)

**III. Administrative updates**

- Sarah will post to the Council Teams site 2 options submitted for potential basement bathroom remodeling

**IV. Finance report**

- The Finance team is not meeting this month
- Comprehensive Campaign is estimated to reach over \$2,000,000 in funds given by its conclusion! Council members will write thank you's to Comprehensive Campaign contributors.

**V. Unfinished business**

- Pride event – Guests Karen & Mark Gieske
  - Discussion about the event and development that the Hudson Pride Co. is not interested in co-hosting the event, as originally understood.
  - Kirsten made a motion to bring the previously approved motion back for reconsideration (Bill second/Passed unanimously).

- Kirsten made a motion to approve the use of Trinity's greenspace for a Trinity-sponsored Pride event led by Trinity's Pride Justice Team on June 16<sup>th</sup> (Jill second/Passed unanimously).
- Security Manual
  - John, Bryan and Shane recently reviewed the Security Manual for recommended edits and posted to the Council Teams site.
  - It was discussed that a Predatory Offender Policy Reaction Team needs activated and implemented.
  - Appendix E of the Manual list of designated private areas was reviewed and agreed upon.
- Comprehensive Campaign
  - John presented a pre-distributed document, and Council discussed ongoing contributions to the Campaign.
  - Kirsten made a motion to approve John's proposed guidance for the congregation to continue donations to mortgage reduction, maintenance, and/or missions after the three-year campaign ends (Jill second/Passed unanimously).
  - Approved proposal deems that donation envelopes will continue to be available; congregants will be able to donate to one or all of the causes listed in the previous bullet.
- Drive-In property
  - Bill communicated with Gaussman's who have extended an offer of \$40,000 for an approximately 0.6-acre piece of Trinity property, including moving water lines, planting a buffer along the property line, and paying for survey and related title costs.
  - Bill is yet to meet with another party interested in a different piece of the property.
  - Bill will serve as Council liaison for a working task group to do due diligence regarding the Drive-in property.

#### **VI. New Business.**

- Council retreat will be held March 28 at Trinity, 9 AM-2 PM, and will take the place of our regular monthly meeting.
- Council is to read Chapters 2-3 of our group study book, "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going".
- Pastor Jen will be leading a training for lay leadership during church services.
- John reminded the Council about needing a monthly Trinity Today focus writer to call out a note of thanks to an appropriate group or team at the church.

**VII. Adjournment** – Bill made a motion to adjourn (Kirsten second/Passed unanimously; meeting adjourned 8:18 PM).

Respectfully submitted,  
Shane Brockshus  
Council Secretary