

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2026

Voting Council members present: John Hodler, Jill Longnecker, Kirsten Parker, Bryan Barts, Shane Brockshus, Pastor Jen Hackbarth, Pastor Kristine Stedje

Non-voting Council member present: Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman

Absent: Bill Bjorum

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church office conference room

The Council business meeting was held during its annual retreat. The business meeting was called to order at 12:20 PM by President John Hodler.

I. Consent Agenda – M/S/P

- Approval of February 16, 2026 Council minutes
- Approval of March 28, 2026 Council meeting agenda

II. Financials

- Financial and Administrator reports were distributed to the Council for review prior to the meeting.
- Sarah reported that the final payment to eliminate the remaining balance on the church mortgage is expected to be made on April 15.

III. Unfinished business

- Comprehensive campaign celebration – Council discussed planning and ideas for this important celebration and recognition.
- Use of Comprehensive Campaign funds
 - In February, the Council voted to continue applying any ongoing Comprehensive Campaign donations (unless specified toward a particular area) to go toward the mortgage, maintenance and missions as per the Campaign. This was prior to the recent donation to pay down the remainder of the mortgage.
 - M/S/P that all Comprehensive Campaign donations received after the close of the official campaign on March 31, 2026, will be used to fund Trinity's operating reserve. This supersedes direction set in February; the change is due to the fact that the mortgage will now be paid off.
 - Council recognized that the majority of our budget will still exist once the mortgage is paid off and agreed that we will need to continue to lean into our core values as we discern and prioritize fiscal needs of the church.
- St Paul Area Synod Assembly – Trinity has 3 delegates currently signed up to attend; we are to send 7 to represent the congregation. Council was asked to consider and encourage members.

IV. New business

- Jill Longnecker will be resigning from her position of Treasurer, and thus, Council as well. Her last meeting will be in May, transitioning from her Treasurer role in June. Council expressed gratitude for all the great work Jill has done in this role.

Council members are to submit Board questionnaire forms to Linda Flood by April 14th.

M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 12:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shane Brockshus
Council Secretary