

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Voting Council Members present	Bill Bjorum, John Hodler, Jill Longnecker, Shane Brockshus, Kirsten Parker, Tina Swanson, Pastor Peter Weston Miller, Pastor Chris Bellefeuille
Non-voting Council Members present	Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman
Absent	None
Guests	Chuck Newman, Trinity Helping Hands

Location: In-person at Trinity Lutheran Church

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

I. Call to Order – John

II. Christ Care Prayers – Pastor Chris

- **Moved up on agenda:** [3rd St Capital Campaign Project cost estimate](#) - Chuck Newman, M/S/P

III. Dwelling in the Word Devotions - Pastor Chris

III. Consent Agenda – *these items are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion with no discussion. Anyone may request an item to be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.* - M/S/P

- Previous Meeting Minutes:
Monday, Oct. 21, 2024
Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024
- Tonight's Meeting Agenda

IV. Reports – Posted in advance and verbally reviewed

- Administrator – Sarah Kinsman
- Treasurer – Jill Longnecker
- Pastor Peter
- Pastor Chris

V. Unfinished Business – Review and discussion

- Drive-in property & infrastructure: doc. pg. 4 - Hodler

- Action decisions - unfinished business items – Council asked to review and determine action required for next meeting

VI. New Business

- Pastor Chris announces retirement date of May 18, 2025 – Pastor Chris
- Council Retreat dates/location/focus - April 14, 2025 starting at Noon
- End of Life: Assisted Dying Memorial, update and awareness - Hodler
- RIC Team request Trinity become coalition member for the MN Strong for TransYouth - Hodler

Schedules discussed and determined for 2025:

- Future Council Meetings
- Executive Committee time/dates
- Dwelling in the word – monthly leader
- TLC Ministry team/area updates

VII. Trinity website – Council information, Church calendar, positions, statements

VIII. Shout Outs, Gratitude moments, etc.

IX. Closing Prayer

X. Adjournment

The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:34 PM by President John Hodler.

Additional Notes

Council action, completed via email in November 2024, approved the following:

Approve the church stocking of both upstairs restrooms with menstrual products, ensuring they are readily available for use. This initiative aligns with our commitment to inclusivity and hospitality by meeting the practical needs of our community members and guests.

Karen and Mark Gieseke will purchase the products for one year after the initial stocking date.

Respectfully submitted,
Kirsten Parker
Congregational Council Secretary

2025 Council Calendar

Dwelling in the Word: Monthly leader – planned schedule

- January – Pastor Chris
- February – John Hodler
- March – Tina Swanson
- April – Kirsten Parker
- May – Bill Bjorum
- June – Pastor Peter
- July – Shane Brockshus
- August – Jill Longnecker
- September – Sarah Kinsman
- October - TBD

Proposed TLC Ministry team/area briefings (as scheduled by Hodler)

Worship & Music – Clark Weyrauch

Stewardship (Noah Schumacher)

Racial Justice (Rachel Schmeltzer)

Connections (Zanny Johnson)

Reconciling in Christ (Karen Gieseke)

Facilities (Mark Gieseke)

Helping Hands

Missions (Marie Liberda)

Children & Family Faith Formation (Sarah Olson)

Youth Faith Formation

Finance Team (Jill Longnecker)

2025 Council Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month unless otherwise noted

Start time 6:30 PM, end time 8:30 PM

- Monday, February 17 (Room 108b – Trinity)
- Monday, March 17 (Room 108 – Trinity)
- Monday, April 14 (Room 108b – Trinity) - Note date change
- Monday, May 19 (Room 108b – Trinity)
- Monday, June 23 (Room 108b – Trinity)
- Monday, July 21 (Room 108b – Trinity)
- Monday, August 18 (Room 108b – Trinity) - Note date change
- Monday, September 13 (Room 108b – Trinity)
- Monday, October 20 (Room 108b – Trinity)
- Monday, November 17 (Room 108b – Trinity) – Election of Officers

Special Meetings

- Council Retreat - April 14 (Afternoon/evening)
- Pastor Chris exit interview: March 17, to be confirmed
- Trinity Fest – TBD
- Annual Meeting (tentative) – Sunday, November 16
- Council Holiday Party – December TBD

Trinity website – Council information, Church calendar, positions, statements

- The Church's calendar at *Trinitylc.org*>*Calendar* has the Council meetings scheduled for the third Monday of each month beginning at 6:30PM.
- Website - contains Council information is at *Trinitylc.org*>*Council*. The menu on the right-hand side of the page labeled 'Meetings, Reports & Documents' contains folders for 'Annual Reports'; 'Annual meeting'; 'Constitution, By-laws & Continuing Resolutions', 'Meeting minutes (approved council mtg minutes)', 'Policies', and 'Statements'.