

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA

Congregational Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Voting Council Members present	Bill Bjorum, John Hodler, Jill Longnecker, Shane Brockshus, Kirsten Parker, Pastor Chris Bellefeuille
Non-voting Council Members present	
Absent	Tina Swanson, Pastor Peter Weston Miller, Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman
Guests	Jill & Scott Kneeskern, Earth Keepers and EV Charging Mark Arps, EV Charging

Location: In-person at Trinity Lutheran Church, office conference room

I. Call to Order – *John called the meeting to order at 6:30PM*

II. Christ Care Prayers – Pastor Chris

III. Dwelling in the Word Devotions – Pastor Chris (Luke 13)

IV. Consent Agenda - (Bill/Jill/Passed)

- ☐ Approval - Monday, Feb. 17, 2025, Council meeting minutes
- ☐ Approval - March 17, 2025, Meeting Agenda
- ☐ Approval – March 17, 2025, Unfinished business items - action determinations
- ☐ **In-Meeting Review** - Human Resources Committee member appointments report
(Chris/Kirsten/Passed)

V. Pastoral updates

- Pastor Peter report, posted.
- Pastor Chris report.
 - Council recommends establishing a Security Team to include staff, Council, facilities, LADC, and interested congregation members to address security procedures to help manage uninvited guests.

VI. Financials

- Administrator – Sarah Kinsman
- Treasurer – Jill Longnecker

VII. Unfinished Business

- EV chargers project – Kirsten/Jill & Scott Kneeskern
 - **MOTION:** Approve installation of EV charging in south parking lot, fundraising to begin at the discretion of the committee with a structured plan agreed in advance with Trinity staff, fees for charging to be reevaluated after 90 days. **(John/Kirsten/Passed)**
- ERC (Employee Retention Credit) funds: Council approval - establish Reserve fund.
 - **MOTION:** Direct administrator to establish a reserve fund of \$98,635.84 of the ERC in lieu of eliminating the zero-balance LOC and to prevent further advances on LOC. **(Bill/Jill/Passed)**
- April 14th Staff & Council Retreat (Peter Nycklemoe), Council mtg. 4:30PM, Dinner 6PM

VIII. New Business

- Pastoral Transition Overview and Communication plan - Kirsten
- SPAS Guidance: Exec. Orders re: Sanctuary Churches, Refugees, and Immigrant Populations
- Council - Leaders in the Congregation: The Basics
- Representatives - St. Paul Area Synod Assembly at St. Andrews, May 16-17 to include memorial for examining end-of-life directions to be presented by Pastor Peter. Council members to provide names to John before next meeting.

IX. Shout Outs, Gratitude moments, etc.

X. Closing Prayer

XI. Adjournment

- The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:52 pm by President John Hodler

Signed by: 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) starting at Noon
- Pastor Chris exit interview: March 6
- Trinity Fest – TBD
- Annual Meeting (tentative) – Sunday, November 16
- Council Holiday Party – December TBD