

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2025

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

Location: Trinity office conference room and Zoom online.

Meeting called to order at approximately 7:10 PM by President John Hodler, following a Council interview with Transition Team members Penny Catlin & Gary Cross.

I. Housekeeping – Council agreed to:

- Recording and transcribing meeting notes for the purpose of note taking.
- Communicate via Trinity email addresses as a best practice for all church business.

II. Consent Agenda – (Bill/Jill/Pass unanimously)

III. Pastoral updates

- There is a potential candidate for Interim Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation identified by the Synod. Pastor Jen will vet them soon.

IV. Financial updates

- Jill reported Signup genius and the overall process is working well for counting offering.
- Trinity Finance Committee's current top focus is endowment funds.

V. Drive-in property update

- Gausman Construction has made an offer to purchase a parcel of land along the south side of the property.
- Bill will contact a newly interested party seeking information about possibly purchasing some of this land.
- Sarah was asked to find the drive-in original purchase agreement to inform the council of the price per acre paid by Trinity.

VI. Unfinished Business

- Safety and Security Policies and Procedures manual updates as recommended by the Security Task Force, specifically regarding building access and Trinity's Predatory Offender Policy, were reviewed.
 - Trinity staff will be consulted before the Council proceeds with details of building access in the Procedures and Policies. We must have capacity and steps in place to execute all we commit to
 - John moved that the Predatory Offender Policy was approved (Bill second; passed unanimously) pending clarification of the second sentence of bullet #5, page 20 as follows:

“Contracts *shall* include requirements for managing the presence of *known* predatory offenders.”

- A small team will meet to review recommended edits throughout the entire Policies and Procedures document. Submit any suggestions to Bryan and Sarah.
- ICE (and other agency) preparedness
 - Discussion on designating and marking Private spaces such as offices, Sacristy, classrooms, kitchen, library, living room and janitorial spaces.
 - Sarah will communicate with LADC for alignment.
 - Pastors would be Trinity's first point of contact/communication for any ICE engagement.
 - Sarah will investigate an attorney to put on retainer for as-needed consult.
- Comprehensive campaign – Moving forward, a process will be in place to allow donations in combination or individually toward maintenance/mortgage/missions, as the donor requests.

VII. New Business

- Discussion on identifying leadership for a party on Feb 15th, and identifying gift causes (representing immigration/refugee aid and Holden Village).
- Conference Assemblies (Feb. 14th @ Christ the King, New Brighton). This is a Bishop election year; nominees for Bishop will be taken at this assembly. Contact Linda Flood for compiling names.
- Council retreat – set March 28th 9:00 AM-2:00 PM @ Trinity. To be working + spiritual time together.
 - No regular March Council meeting.
- Request to host Hudson Pride event
 - Council is interested in supporting this request but needs more information. Kirsten to follow up.

VIII. Shout outs and gratitude

- Each month, a Council member will write a brief call out for Trinity Today.

IX. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned @ 8:30 PM (Bill/Kirsten/Passed unanimously).

X. Next Council meeting – Monday, February 16, 6:30 PM @ Trinity office conference room

Respectfully,
 Shane Brockshus
 Trinity Council Secretary