

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Voting Council Members present	Bill Bjorum, John Hodler, Kirsten Parker, Tina Swanson, Jill Longnecker, Pastor Peter Weston Miller, Shane Brockshus (arr. 6:35pm)
Non-voting Council Members present	Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman
Absent	
Guests	Mark Gieske

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

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

II. Prayers – Pastor Jen

III. Dwelling in the Word Devotions – Jill

IV. Consent Agenda (Tina/Jill/Passed)

- Approval – Monday, July 21, 2025, Council meeting minutes
- Approval – August 18, 2025, Meeting Agenda
- Approval – Revised Non-rostered ‘Ministry’ staff & Called Rostered Pastor/deacons sabbatical policy dated July 2025

V. Security Task Force Report and recommendations – Mark Gieske

- **Council action:** Acceptance/approval of Security Task force recommendations and funding \$5,000 from the building fund to implement the five project recommendations. **(Tina/Jill/Passed)**
- Discussion and guidance provided by Council for completing predatory offender recommendations in the form of a Predatory Offender Attendance Policy and complementary Covenant for attendance. Guidance provided to Mark about creating a plan for ownership/enforcement as well as talking points for communication to the congregation.

VI. Pastoral updates

- Pastor Jen report & Book study recommendations
- Pastor Peter report

VII. Financials

- Administrator – Sarah Kinsman, FY 2025-2026 budget preliminary approval **(Bill/Tina/Passed)**
- Treasurer – Jill Longnecker
 - Requested council volunteers to participate as lead money counters 6-8 weeks per year; plan to attend training in the October-November timeframe.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- Transition team selection process
 - **John** to update application form; **Kirsten** to create online form for Transition Team; responses to be sent to Linda Flood; due date September 21
 - Working session for Council to review applications on September 29, 6:00 pm
- RIC (Trinity Pride Justice Team) request that Trinity become a Coalition member of Minnesota Strong for Transforming Families.
 - **Council action:** At the recommendation of the Trinity Pride Justice Team, we will become a Coalition Member of Transforming Families for 3 years, with a gift of \$250 from the Benevolence budget per year. **(Kirsten/Jill/Passed)**

- Communication plan: Coalition member, Sabbatical policy, and Security measures

IX. New Business

- Trinity Fest, Sunday Sept. 7th – Council table representatives: **Bill, Tina, Shane, John**
- September 14th Adult Forum: Council presentation objective, preparation (practice Zoom session to be scheduled by **Kirsten**)
- Special Council meeting – last part Sept. 29 to review and select Transition Team members
- Revised Finance Team term length continuing resolution (**Jill/Tina/Passed**)

X. Shout Outs, Gratitude moments, etc.

XI. Closing Prayer

XII. Adjournment

The Council meeting was adjourned at 8:41 P.M. by President John Hodler

***Signed by:** Kirsten Parker, Congregational Council Secretary*