

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2026

Voting Council members present: John Hodler, Jill Longnecker, Bill Bjorum, Shane Brockshus, Pastor Jen Hackbarth, Pastor Kristine Stedje

Non-voting Council member present: Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman

Absent: Kirsten Parker, Bryan Barts

Guests: Gary Cross & Penny Catlin, Transition Team

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church office conference room

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President John Hodler.
Pastor Jen led in opening prayer.

I. Consent Agenda – M/S/P:

- Approval of March 28, 2026 Council meeting agenda, and
- Approval of April 20, 2026 Council meeting agenda

II. Pastoral updates in addition to written reports previously submitted to the Council:

- Pastor Jen confirmed that Pastor Karri Anderson will begin as Trinity's Visitation Pastor on May 1.
- Pastor Kristine has been gathering feedback from Dinner Church participants to learn what is important to the congregation in this time together.
- Council was asked to help with clean up after the Comprehensive Campaign celebration on April 26th.
- **St. Paul Area Synod Assembly – M/S/P** to approve as voting representatives of Trinity Lutheran: Penny Catlin, Marie Liberda, Andrew Thelander, John Hodler, Claudia Swenseid, Jon Fogelberg and Gary Cross at Synod Assembly May 15-16.

III. Financials

- Financial and Administrator reports were distributed to the Council for review prior to the meeting.
- Sarah reported that the final Mortgage payment was made last week, taking the balance to \$0.
- \$60,000 of the remaining fiscal year (through August) budget, if collected, is now freed up due to the elimination of the mortgage. Council discussed prioritizing these additional reserves, as well as guidance for direction of the upcoming budget process. To be taken up at May Council meeting.

IV. Unfinished business

Call Committee – M/S/P to approve the Call Committee roster of: Jennifer Swenson (chair), Annika Gossai, Bob Boyd, Britta Levenhagen, Diane Sauers, Gary Cross, Lisa Bien-Sinz, Michael Switzer and Zach Michalk. The committee will be installed during worship on May 10.

- Council discussed the many talents and gifts identified in the process of selecting the Call Committee and current needs for more volunteers.

V. Transition Team

- Mission Site Profile (MSP) and summary material from the Transition Team were distributed prior to the meeting for review.
- Penny Catlin & Gary Cross joined to discuss insights gleaned from the Transition Team's engagement with the congregation. Together the team discerned and made suggestions to ensure the MSP effectively captures all important context to facilitate the call process.
- The Council thanked the Transition Team for their thorough and important work.
- Council will review the final MSP prior to and approve at its May meeting.

VI. Book study

- Pastor Kristine led Council in continued discussion of "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going" (Chapter #3).

Pastor Jen led us in closing with the Lord's Prayer.

M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shane Brockshus
Council Secretary