

TLC Church Council Meeting April 9, 2019
Transfiguration Lutheran Church

Attendees:

Council: Evan Collins, Carol Hill, Allison Lindman, Jerry Olson, Laurel Riippa, Zac Schnedler, Gretchen Schroeder, Sandy Stooke, Patti Weichselbaum

Staff: Pastor Ed Treat, Pastor Arthur Murray

Guest: Beth Rahn

Devotions: Jerry Olson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Evan Collins at 6:35 p.m.

TLC Addiction Awareness Team (Strategic Plan): Beth Rahn. Zac Schnedler and Beth Rahn are co-chairing the team and six to ten individuals are coming to meetings. Beth Rahn reported the following activities of the Team:

- the Addiction Awareness page has been updated with added resources. Plan is to add links to the resources
- resources in library have been updated and brochures placed in Narthex about the team
- Addiction Awareness Sunday was held last September. Another Addiction Awareness Sunday is planned for September 29, 2019
- Counseling is provided to those who are referred to the team
- the team has met with Drew Brooks of Faith Partners and have received a proposal to provide training to the team members. Only one of the current members has received this training. If the proposal is accepted, a member will provide funding for the training.
- individuals representing the Stephen ministry leaders have attended three meetings

Approval of Agenda: Approved with the addition of reviewing the Parish Nurse Job Description

Review and approval of minutes: Carol Hill. Motion by Sandy Stooke with second by Patti Weichselbaum to approve the minutes. Motion carried and approved.

Review and approval of March Financial Report: Jerry Olson

- General Fund receipts for March totaled \$64,115. Total disbursements totaled \$72,473, primarily maintenance, snow plowing, etc. The year to date column shows an operating deficit so far for 2019 of \$16,028. There is sufficient cash in the church bank accounts to meet expenses but not benevolence.
- Capital campaign receipts in March totaled \$24,180. Expenditures totaled \$21,347. There is a surplus to date of \$38K. Building fund pledges will be checked to be sure that changes as a result of the June and July mailings have been put into the data base.

Motion by Laurel Riippa with second by Patti Weichselbaum to approve the financial report. Motion carried and approved.

Thank you: Evan Collins thanked the Council members for the additional work they have done over the last few months.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ed Treat

Again this month I begin my report with an enormous "Thank you!" to this council. The work you have done and keep doing, the hours you have put in, the quality of your leadership is truly stellar and inspirational. So many times in the last months I have felt demoralized by some of the things being said about me that go unchallenged. I have also felt deeply saddened by the situation we find this church working through. There have been many times I have wanted to give up. While it's clear this has been a difficult time for TLC, I hate to think about where TLC might be right now if not for all of you stepping up so courageously and faithfully. It's things like this that can really destroy a congregation for many years to come. If not for the honest, sincere, and authentic way you all have approached these challenges things would be far worse, I am certain. Your leadership keeps me going, so I thank you all for giving me the strength to keep showing up each day and serving God to the best of my ability. Again, I say from my heart, it is an honor to serve the Lord with you. God bless you all.

The congregational process of the Pastoral Leadership Team evaluation was very well done and the meeting last Sunday was very well thought through, well led, and quite inspirational. I have and continue to hear very strong and positive comments at how encouraged and hopeful that meeting made people feel. Thank you again, council.

In the last month I took five days of personal vacation time to chaperone the Mound Westonka Band and Choir on a bus tour of Memphis and Nashville to learn about the musical heritage of our country. I then took six days of vacation to be with my family on Spring break. I thank you for that much needed time away.

We are winding up our Lenten Holden Evening services with the final service of the season tomorrow night. We are busy now preparing for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services. Tomorrow night will also be the last night for confirmation mentoring, so thank you to all who have participated in that ministry.

We held a funeral for Connie Barnes last week and are currently planning services for Leah Teal this coming Thursday. We are watching the weather closely.

We've had two baptisms since our last meeting.

We held another rare ordination service at TLC on Saturday, April 30, for member, Laurel Midthun. Bishop Ann presided and there were two plus rows of ordained clergy here to process along with a nearly full church. It was a great celebration and TLC did a fine job of hosting. I was proud of our church.

I attended the Gala fundraiser for the National Lutheran choir last Sunday along with at least 20 other members of TLC. We should be very proud of our own music director, Rob Reid, and his wife, Jill, who play an important role in this distinguished organization.

Strategic planning and all its associated teams continuing to meet and carry out their many initiatives.

We look forward to the commissioning of 10 Stephen ministers planned for Sunday, May 19.

Work on the Addiction and Faith Conference continues.

Faithfully submitted, Pastor Ed, possibly former senior pastor of TLC

Old Business:

- Comment Box Next Steps: Discussion centered on ongoing concerns as to how the Comment Box will be set up and administered. A protocol is needed. Evan Collins, Laurel Riippa, Carol Hill will meet with Brian Evans to further discuss and develop a process.
- Sunday Recovery Ministry: it was noted that the possibility of a Sunday recovery ministry was one of the outcomes of the lecture series on addiction which was developed by Pastor Arthur as part of his internship. It was also noted that there are resources for new worship communities available. It would be possible to have another Sunday night lecture series and then invite the participants to stay for a service following the lecture.
- Non-profit Training is scheduled for April 11. Make-up snow date is April 25 at 6:30 p.m. The training is being sponsored by several anonymous donors.

New Business:

- Parish Nurse Job Description: Pastor Ed distributed the job description which was drafted by the Personnel Committee, both pastors and Erin Pommeranz. Motion by Sandy Stooke with second by Patti Weichselbaum for the Personnel Committee to move ahead with the job description. Motion carried and approved.
- Review of Congregational Straw Poll:
 - Strongly Agree: 138 (92 online, 46 paper)
 - Mostly Agree: 57 (47 online, 10 paper)
 - Unsure or need to know more 12 (10 online, 2 paper)
 - Mostly disagree 19 (15 online, 4 paper)
 - Strongly disagree: 46 (36 online, 10 paper)
 - Total Votes: 272 (200 online, 72 paper)

Both pastors excused at this point.

- Review of Comments from the Town Hall Comments Box: A listing of the comments was distributed followed by discussion. A decision on response to the comments was tabled until the May meeting.
- Co-pastor proposal: Motion by Evan Collins with second by Jerry Olson to approve and move forward with the 9-month Pilot proposal as it was presented to the congregation on March 31, 2019. Motion carried and approved with two “no” votes (Allison Lindman, Laurel Riippa).

Evan Collins as Council President will submit the vote for inclusion in the TLC Weekly along with the results of the straw poll.

Next Meeting Date: May 14, 2019, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. meeting

Devotions: Zac Schnedler

Meal: Zac Schnedler

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Sandy Stooke with second by Laurel Riippa. Motion carried and approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.