

TLC Church Council Meeting – August 11, 2020
Transfiguration Lutheran Church

Attendees:

Staff: Pastor Arthur Murray

Council: Melinda Chau, Steve Jorschumb, Jerry Olson, Gretchen Schroeder, Sandy Stooke, Becky Woll

Regrets: Dan Ekholm, Allison Lindman, Steve Mattson

Devotions: Becky Woll

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:41 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Sandy Stooke with second by Becky Woll to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried and approved.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Gretchen Schroeder

Motion by Becky Woll with second by Sandy Stooke to approve the July Council meeting minutes.

Motion carried and approved.

Financial Report: Jerry Olson

- General Fund receipts for July 2020 totaled \$39,588, which is similar to last month. Disbursements totaled \$62,541, resulting in a deficit of \$22,953 for the month. The YTD balance is a deficit of \$51,266.
- Capital campaign receipts totaled \$12,030 with expenditures of \$15,167. The June deficit is \$3,137, and the YTD surplus is \$2,697. There remains a surplus of \$12,949 for the entire campaign to date. Giving is down this year compared to last year.
- PPP loan dollars have been used. Waiting on the loan forgiveness application.
- Motion by Gretchen Schroeder with second by Melinda Chau to approve the July financial report. Motion carried and approved.

Pastor's Reports:

Pastor Ed Treat

- Meet with staff weekly
- Meet with Pastoral care team weekly
- Make pastoral calls when necessary
- Meet with worship planning team weekly
- Preach and lead worship monthly
- Supervise pastoral intern
- Attended two marches in support of George Floyd
- Meet with Arthur regularly to meet and plan
- Meet monthly with Arthur and Clergy Coach to navigate challenging times for the church

- Met with Addiction Awareness Team three times in the last month as we prepared for leadership training event. The TLC Addiction Awareness Team held a very successful two week leadership training session for addiction awareness ministry. 10 congregations were present from across the Twin Cities and the country including 35 leaders of which 12 were clergy. Thanks to Beth Rahn and the Addiction Awareness team for their leadership.
- Have held two webinars in the last 30 days, Pastoral Care for Addiction during a Pandemic, and How to Create and Maintain Addiction Ministry. Each webinar had over 100 register and more than 60 attend.
- Working hard to get the Center of Addiction & Faith Website up and running. Getting very close.
- Planned and presided at my father's graveside service as well as his online funeral service. Gratitude for Pastor Grace for her assisting with the service.
- All your prayers and words of support have been incredibly meaningful for me during the loss of my father. I was not prepared for the impact of losing my remaining parent even though I know it was coming. It's very good at times like this to have so much love and support. Thank you so very much for that.

Pastor Arthur Murray

General

- Overall, in our household we are feeling the same sense that I get from many others, especially those with young children: a growing acceptance that we are about to do this all over again heading into the fall. We were hoping we would be done with at-home schooling, but that is not the case. Our kids are fully online as we are in the St. Paul Public School system. Now that the schools are heading in this direction, much of our thinking around church is following a similar course.

Pastoral Acts

- There have been no funerals, weddings or baptisms in the last month. I am currently counseling three couples in preparation for marriage.

Re-Opening

- Plans to even partially re-open have been set back at least a month or two due to current trends. A full report is coming at this meeting from the Covid Response Team. Many thanks to Pete and Jeanine for their leadership.

Staff Transitions

- Pete Erickson increased his hours again up to 25 per week as of August 1 to allow for him to take on a portion of Renee's responsibilities.
- Nancy Waldack is "training in" this month and will start September 1 on staff as Financial Administrator.

Renee's Retirement

- Many, many thanks to the retirement party committee, and all who showed up for Renee on August 2nd. It was a moving send-off. She is already greatly missed!

Pastor Ed news

- Pastor Ed returned today from Washington State where he was with family on the death of his father. Our prayers continue to be with him as he returns back to the TLC community. He is preaching and presiding this coming Sunday. Pete Erickson will also be providing worship leadership.

Financial

- Capital Campaign Team sent out a letter to the congregation with 2nd quarter statements updating the status of the campaign which is now entering year 4 out of 5.
- Finance Team has a “Mid-Year Financial Update” letter ready to go and will send in the next week or two.
- Stewardship Team is putting the final touches on the fall pledge drive. The theme will be “Sharing is Caring.” The kick-off event will be earlier than usual in the hopes of favorable weather for an outdoor event. October 2nd outdoors at the church. Oct 9 is the rain date. Oktoberfest theme. Stewardship Sunday will be November 15.

Phone Call Ministry

- One of the findings of the Covid Response Team is that phone call ministry has been very effective. We will be making a renewed effort to invest in a wide network of phone calling to stay in touch as we continue to be a distanced community.

Home Bound Ministry

- Intern Pastor Grace is continuing the commitment that Deacon Renee has initiated to stay in touch with those who do not have access to online services, along with her ongoing curating of the Hope for the Day series of daily devotionals. We heard in the survey comments how important those have been to many TLC members.

Worship

- Outdoor worship will continue as long as weather permits on 2nd Sunday of the month. Blessings of the Animals went well and the weather held off just long enough. The next outdoor worship will be Rally Day, Sept 13.
- The recent congregational survey showed very high levels of appreciation for the online worship offered by TLC. We intend to keep that commitment and are looking for ways to strengthen it, including training in additional tech personnel.
- There have been requests to return to the “God Moments” (short personally faith stories from members of the congregation during worship). We are considering this for the fall.

Youth and Family

- Some TLC youth just returned from a fantastic BWCA trip. Many thanks to leaders Solveig Orngard, Jake Pernsteiner, Sarah Baker and Cindy Krey.
- Pete Erickson and I are working closely together on plans for fall Sunday School, Confirmation and High School ministry opportunities. The next step is to be in conversation with parents and youth to find solutions that fit with and complement the new school rhythms rather than compete with them.
- Pete continues to work closely with the Youth Transition Team to lay ground work for an eventual long term position.

Bloomington Race, Equity Initiative

- There is a strong interest from the city to continue to move forward in collaboration with faith communities regarding an inter-institutional approach that also includes the Police Department and the Schools.
- The TLC Racial Justice Team will be revisiting the previously submitted statement on racial justice to produce a new version for Council review at our next meeting.

- Irene Amon and Laura Thelander will be jointly presenting a congregational reading of the new book, “My Grandmother’s Hands,” this fall as part of our ongoing racial awareness educational offerings. Schedule will be forthcoming.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- **Covid-19 Response Team: Recommendation:** Pete Erickson & Jeanine Brown
 - Had a good response to the Re-opening the Church survey, but less so for families with children. Results indicate that the concern over in person gathering is high and that online worship is well done and has meaning. (Survey results are posted on the TLC website.)
 - Reviewed the attached recommendations from Covid-19 Response Team.
 - Motion by Becky Woll with second by Sandy Stooke to approve and implement the current recommendations of the Covid-19 Response Team with the understanding that the recommendations will be reviewed monthly. Motion carried and approved.
- **Racial Justice Discussion:** Jerry Olson and Pastor Arthur
 - The Racial Justice Team is updating our statement on racial justice and plans to bring it to the Council next month.
 - Pastor Arthur requested feedback to his racial justice e-mails.

Next Meeting Date: September 8, 2020

Devotions: Jerry Olson

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Becky Woll with second by Sandy Stooke. Motion carried and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Following is a summary of the recommendations from TLC's Covid Response Team (Pete Erickson, Jeanine Brown co-leads, Louise Olson, Janice Millford, Karen Wenge, Steve Jorschumb, Michelle Reber, Rob Reid, Pastor Arthur) to TLC Church Council as of August 11, 2020. These recommendations will be updated monthly.

Recommendations are based on a close study of the MN Dept. of Health guidelines, ELCA recommendations, the ongoing trajectory of the pandemic, and the 107 responses to the TLC survey of August 6, 2020.

Sunday Worship Recommendations

- Maintain strong commitment to high quality on-line weekly worship.
- Continue with drive-in worship once per month.
- Do not begin in-person worship prior to October 25.
- Continue training essential technical (audio/video) personnel to make in-person worship an eventual possibility and strengthen existing livestream capabilities as follows:
 - Begin once a month in-person worship trial with pre-recorded musical elements projected in the sanctuary (September 27 test run with tech personnel only. Possible October 25 test run with training of lead volunteers.)
- Current MN Dept of Health guidelines dictate that if and when in-person worship resumes, we can expect the following:
 - Masks are required.
 - Bathrooms are available. We request that they are used only if absolutely necessary.
 - Reservations will be required. Maximum capacity with social distancing is approximately 60 persons (20 or so family units).
 - TLC members without a reservation will be seated based on availability.
 - Several spaces will be reserved each week for visitors.
 - There will be no live singing. Non-wind instruments including piano, organ, etc., may be incorporated into live worship.
 - The service will be live streamed.
 - Pastors will present their portions of worship live.

- Communion will be offered in person and live stream.
- Time for Children will be pre-recorded and projected.
- Outdoor Sunday School will be offered during in-person worship, weather permitting.
- All fellowship will be outdoors following the service, weather permitting.

Pastoral Care and Visitation Recommendations

- Recommit to member to member phone call ministry this fall as the most effective means to maintain connection.
- Pastors continue to be available for phone calls, on-line visits, and outdoor visits by appointment.
- Stephen ministry continues to support pastoral team.

Small Groups

- Are encouraged to meet virtually, outdoors, and socially distance as allow. The church building continues to be unavailable to small groups through the end of 2020.

Sunday School

- Will be a hybrid model of outdoors and virtual gatherings beginning in October.
- Plans will be finalized in consultation with parents, and in response to school schedules.
- Youth and Family Minister to communicate with lay leaders in August and with families directly in mid-September following school start-up.

Confirmation and Youth Ministry

- Will be a hybrid model of outdoors and virtual gatherings beginning in October.
- Plans will be finalized in consultation with youth and parents, and in response to school schedules.

- Youth and Family Minister to communicate with lay leaders is August and with families directly in mid-September following school start-up.

Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms

- These events will be scheduled on a case-by-case basis. Contact a pastor directly to discuss.

Building Access

Remains closed for non-scheduled events.