

TLC Church Council Meeting - February 11, 2020
Transfiguration Lutheran Church

Attendees:

Staff: Pastor Arthur Murray

Council: Steve Jorschumb, Steve Mattson, Melinda Chau, Allison Lindman, Jerry Olson, Sandy Stooke, Gretchen Schroeder, Dan Ekholm (via phone)

Regrets: Becky Woll

Devotions: Allison Lindman

Introductions: Council members introduced themselves to each other and welcomed the new members.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:47 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Sandy Stooke with second by Allison Lindman to approve the agenda. Motion carried and approved.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Gretchen Schroeder

January 12, 2020 Council Meeting

Motion by Allison Lindman with second by Sandy Stooke to approve the minutes. Motion carried and approved.

January 26, 2020 Annual Meeting

Motion by Gretchen Schroeder with second by Arthur Murray to approve the minutes. Motion carried and approved. Meeting minutes will be inserted in the 2021 Annual Report.

Financial Report: Jerry Olson

- With Sue Brickley's retirement, Jerry Olson will be temporarily taking over her role in addition to his Treasurer role.
- The 2020 budget is less than the 2019 budget in order to have a balanced budget.
- General Fund receipts for January 2020 totaled \$66,217. Disbursements totaled \$74,534. The YTD deficit is \$8,317. This is a similar, but slightly smaller deficit from a year ago.
- Capital campaign receipts totaled \$17,757 with expenditures of \$16,441. The YTD surplus is \$1,316. There remains a surplus of \$11,070 for the entire campaign to date. The 2020 budget includes additional principal payments on the mortgage of a little over \$2000 per month.
- Motion by Sandy Stooke with second by Allison Lindman to approve the financial report. Motion carried and approved.

Pastors Reports:

Pastor Arthur Murray

Liberia Trip

- Incredibly grateful to the council and congregation for the prayers and support surrounding this trip. The Center for Changing Lives – Liberia ministry is far more impressive in person than

anything that can be represented in a report. That said, looking forward to telling the story as best we can on March 1 at 11am.

MLK weekend

- I am grateful to Jerry Olson, Shelley Smith and Marilyn Erickson (the Racial Justice team) for their work in putting together this weekend of events. Danny Givens preaching and presenting. Soul food lunch. Book discussion of Dear Church hosted by Atonement. Good collaboration from other congregations. Joint meeting with Christ the King this Thursday regarding next steps. Further discussion on Dear Church next Tuesday at the Pao's. All are welcome.

Pastoral

- I am personally very grateful to my colleagues Ed and Grace for their support and pastoral coverage during the first few weeks on 2020 and for their ongoing ministry. We work very well as a team, and though they are both half-time this year, I feel very supported and we share the pastoral duties of preaching, teaching, pastoral care and administering the sacraments very equally.

New Members

- It was very encouraging to see such a strong new member welcome this past Sunday (19). TLC continues to be a draw for an increasingly diverse group of people. That said, families with young children continues to be a strong demographic. People notice our commitment to providing family support and are responding.

New Small Group Support

- Dad's spiritual support group – Wednesdays 7-8pm chapel
- Parents' Night Out – started as a Liberia Trip fundraiser – everyone wants it to keep going. Likely Friday or Saturday nights monthly.

Financial

- I am grateful to Sue Brickley for her incredible dedication to TLC. She has left us in a very good and healthy financial position. Many thanks to Michelle Reber and Jerry Olson along with Pastor Ed for carrying us through the transition in financial administration.
- We are awaiting Nancy Waldack to take over the financial administrator position in summer of 2020.

Annual Meeting

- Good though long. Grateful that we were able to approve the budget and pastoral coverage proposal for 2020. Grateful that there was increased clarity around the congregation's support for Pastor Ed and for high level of engagement from TLC congregation.

Youth and Family

- I am meeting regularly with Renee to prepare for her retirement in the summer of 2020.
- I continue to meet regularly and plan ahead with Ben who is currently interviewing for a call to a congregation in Montana.
- I am very grateful to both of them for their continued dedication and faithfulness to ending strong at TLC.
- Seeking participants for the Youth Team. Council representation would be welcomed in addition to Sandy Stooke.
- We are interviewing an organization called Interserve which provides interim youth ministry and visioning support.

- Very happy with the changes to the youth program implemented this past fall. Program feels good and right-sized. Great lay leadership involvement which causes me to be very encouraged and hopeful that we can end the year strong and continue well should Ben receive a call.

Environmental Group

- Bringing a proposal to Council in March. Great work being done by this team!

Property Committee

- Met with Thursday Men’s Work Group to address concerns expressed at Annual Meeting regarding property maintenance. Agreed that a Property Committee is needed. Would like Council representation. Seeking ELC involvement as well.

Ministry Partners

- Mission and Outreach Team is working on language to describe our relationship with our three major ministry partners:
 1. TLC Early Learning Center
 2. Center for Changing Lives – Liberia
 3. The Center of Addiction & Faith
- I am hoping that we will be particularly supportive of the ELC this year as they celebrate their 35 anniversary and seek to renovate the playground.

Summary

- After several years of (at times) very difficult change management, I am personally feeling in a very positive and optimistic place regarding my call to TLC and the state of our congregational ministry. Love our new council! Especially Steve! 😊 Feeling that we have many, many good pieces in place and much positive to build on. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Ed Treat

Pastor Relationship

- Conversations continue monthly with clergy coach Mark Betley.
- Arthur and I meet weekly to discuss roles and responsibilities.

Staffing

- Arthur and I will meet with personnel team jointly to hand off his leadership of staff
- I continue to supervise Grace with regular check-ins and communication with Seminary

Addiction and Faith Conference

- Working with advisory team
- Next conference planned for February 2021
- Application for nonprofit is under way establishing a new 501c3 called “The Center of Addiction & Faith”
- Establishing a board for the new ministry
- Contracted with consultant to pursue grants and funding.
- New Website is under development
- Am writing a resolution to be presented at the next Synod Assembly to establish a Synod Task Force on Addiction

Addiction Awareness

- The TLC Addiction Awareness team is holding a synod-wide training event on Saturday, May 16 to teach other congregations how to develop Addiction Awareness ministry. We currently have 5 congregations enrolled.

Annual Meeting

- We have moved to implement the TLC Pastoral Leadership Team plan voted on at the annual meeting. I am currently working half time at TLC and Arthur has stepped up to become the primary leader as we begin the search for a full-time co-pastor.

Old Business:

- **Overview of 2019:** Sandy Stooke

Sandy gave an overview of 2019 describing the challenges and successes of the past year for the new council members.

New Business:

- **Parish Nurse job description:** Job description for the Parish Nurse position was distributed. Position would be 10 hours/week. Personnel committee to search for candidates for this open position.
- **Council Installation 8:30am & 10am - February 23:** Council to attend the end of both services for installation.
- **Council Retreat March 13-14 – Arc Retreat Center:** Retreat will be Friday 6pm – Saturday 2pm and will be led by Diane Nettifee. Steve Jorschumb to submit grant application to TLC Foundation to cover expense. Discussed possibility of inviting others to attend Saturday morning.
- **Synod Toolkit – Feb 22 – St. Andrews, Eden Prairie:** Steve Jorschumb, Jerry Olson, and a few other members are planning to attend.
- **Pastors Housing Allowance approval:** Motion by Allison Lindman with second by Jerry Olson to approve that \$50,000 of Pastor Arthur Murray's 2020 salary and \$40,000 of Pastor Ed Treat's 2020 salary be designated as housing allowance. Motion carried and approved.
- **Approve new ELC board member:** Motion by Allison Lindman with second by Sandy Stooke to approve Erica Lovestrand for the ELC Board. Motion carried and approved.

Announcement: Don Kleven is open to doing Council orientation sessions (10 minutes at the next couple meetings). Allison Lindman to reach out to Don.

Next Meeting Date: March 10, 2020

Devotions and Meal: Gretchen Schroeder

Closing Prayer: Pastor Arthur offered a closing prayer.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Allison Lindman with second by Steve Mattson. Motion carried and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Addendum: Pastor Ed Treat e-mailed council members on January 23, 2020, with an update on the copyright infringement lawsuit. He has negotiated a settlement and would like to pay it and be done with it. He asked the Council to vote via e-mail on paying \$1000 to settle the copyright infringement lawsuit. He received 6 yes votes and 0 no votes. The \$1000 settlement was paid.