

TLC Church Council Meeting – March 10, 2020

Transfiguration Lutheran Church

Attendees:

Staff: Pastor Arthur Murray

Council: Steve Mattson, Melinda Chau, Allison Lindman, Jerry Olson, Sandy Stooke, Gretchen Schroeder, Dan Ekholm, Becky Woll

Regrets: Steve Jorschumb

Guests: Don Kleven, Sharon Knuth, Jeanine Brown

Devotions: Gretchen Schroeder

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

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

Review and Approval of Minutes: Gretchen Schroeder

Motion by Becky Woll with second by Steve Mattson to approve the February Council meeting minutes. Motion carried and approved.

Council Role: Don Kleven

- Don Kleven presented on the role of the Council, discussed the TLC organizational structure, and reviewed the documents (Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions) that give the Council its authority, duties, and responsibilities.
- Don also discussed parliamentary procedure using Roberts Rule of Order, current edition.
- Becky Woll asked about references to senior pastor in the bylaws, and Don Kleven explained that this was addressed with the resolution passed at the Annual Meeting.

Environmental Team: Sharon Knuth

- Sharon Knuth followed up on her visit to Council last fall to report on the energy audit and lighting analysis performed by Mark Rader from Center for Energy and the Environment (CEE), with a focus on the lighting portion.
- TLC has an opportunity to replace the remainder of lighting with new, more efficient LED lights reducing utility bills and also reducing TLC's carbon footprint.
- CEE offers an energy efficiency loan for non-profits to balance payments for lighting upgrades with estimated monthly saving. This is a good time to consider lighting updates due to a temporary increase in Xcel energy rebates of 29% of installed cost.
- Allison Lindman asked if this impacts our programmed light switches. Sharon Knuth responded that Mark Rader from CEE reviewed the existing systems and his analysis takes them into account.
- Motion by Allison Lindman with second by Becky Woll to approve moving forward with the proposal from the environmental committee for lighting upgrades, pending approval of financing. Motion carried and approved.

Financial Report: Jerry Olson

- General Fund receipts for February 2020 totaled \$61,501. Disbursements totaled \$62,011, resulting in a deficit of \$510 for the month. This shows that receipts and expenses were down compared to last month. The YTD deficit increased to \$6,827. The receipts total does not include the \$25,000 gift that was made to reduce the 2019 deficit.
- Capital campaign receipts totaled \$24,397 with expenditures of \$17,275. The YTD surplus is \$8,438. There remains a surplus of \$18,390 for the entire campaign to date. TLC paid \$2000 extra to the mortgage in February and will catch up on the January payment likely in May. The surplus is being held for anticipated excess building maintenance expenses.
- Motion by Allison Lindman with second by Sandy Stooke to approve the February financial report. Motion carried and approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Arthur MurrayGeneral

- It has been 6 weeks since the annual meeting and the move to the new pastoral arrangement. It has been a good test of the coming year. Pastor Ed has been gone for a week of vacation plus a week of Addiction and Faith work. Intern Pastor Grace also had a number of planned commitments in February which took her away from TLC. Still the load felt well distributed and not unmanageable.

Pastoral Acts

- Since last meeting one baptism and one funeral (Pastor Ed presided)
- Preaching in February 2x Arthur, 1x Ed, 1x Grace – this should be a typical month.

Youth and Family

- Ben has been called to serve as pastor at Messiah Lutheran in Red Lodge, Montana. We celebrate Ben on March 18 and Sunday, March 22.
- We have contracted with Interserve to provide interim Youth and Family Ministry coverage and consulting help. Pete Erickson starts at TLC on March 16 to overlap with Ben (pending council approval tonight). His first Wednesday night will be April 1 as he is finishing up a previous commitment at a church in St. Cloud.
- Very grateful to all the council and parents who turned out to meet with Sue Megrund and Pete from Interserve on Feb 25. Youth Team will be reformed to continue work with Interserve.
- I am meeting regularly with Renee to prepare for her retirement in the summer of 2020, probably end of July with accumulated vacation time.
- We are well covered for Wed activities in the meantime.
- Summer camp planning has been mostly completed by Ben with help of parents.
- National Youth Gathering 2021 plans are being spearheaded by Karen Wenge and Kirsten Boehne. Very exciting!

Hiring

- Met with personnel committee on March 1. They will be assisting with the hiring of a Parish Nurse and redefining the proposed half-time office position in light of Renee's impending retirement.

Synod Toolkit

- Strong Council and Lay Leadership representation at this annual offering on Feb 22. Thank you to all those who attended. Bearing some good fruit already. May be able to access synod grant funds to help pay for the Youth consulting.

Environmental Group

- Bringing a proposal to Council at this meeting. An initial presentation from Environmental consultants on full LED lighting was very encouraging.

Property Committee

- Still recruiting for Property Committee. First meeting set for March 31 at 6:30pm. Current members Keith Olson, Michelle Reber, Pastor Arthur. Need representation from Council, ELC, Environmental Group, and general congregation. There are significant building expenses pending, and this needs a team to tend to it specifically.

Thrivent

- We are working with a new Thrivent rep, Durk Peterson, who has been very proactive. He is with us for the month of March and will be offering financial workshops. Please fill out the survey and vote on your preference.

Strudel Fundraiser

- New initiative from Stewardship Team to fund internal ministries. First time on March 29 to benefit Funeral Team for new coffee pots.

Racial Justice

- Meeting this week with Caitlyn Gokey, Community Relations Liaison of Bloomington PD along with reps from other Bloomington congregations to discuss partnering on a Bloomington Race and Equity initiative similar to the one Pastor John Nelson has started in Hopkins.

Mission and Outreach

- Strong support for Pancakes with a Purpose and Mission of the Month continues. PwP for VEAP raised \$500 last month which is fairly typical. Youth are doing a food drive this week for canned goods. Next month (April) will be ELC. Barb and Sarah Logan met with the Mission and Outreach team to make plans. Expecting ELC participation. Great opportunity for strengthening the ties between the two communities.

Liberia Trip Report

- Many thanks to all who attended the report and Liberia lunch on March 1. A lot of positive comments were received. Creating a team of ambassadors to build support

Council and Leadership Retreat

- Looking forward to a wonderful retreat. Diane Netiffee, Jeanine Brown, Steve Jorschumb and I met to plan last week.

Coronavirus

- Many plans have been discussed at staff but few implemented. Attempted to order extra hand-sanitizer for sanctuary but it is not available. We are well positioned with online possibilities. Council input would be welcome.

Old Business:

- **Leadership Retreat:** Arc Retreat Center
Friday, March 13th, 5:30pm – Saturday, March 14th, 2pm
Council on Friday evening and 6 others joining Saturday AM to discuss mission and values for the church

New Business:

- **Interserve Contract:** Discussed contract with Interserve to provide interim Youth and Family Ministry coverage and consulting help. Motion by Allison Lindman with second by Steve Mattson to approve the contract with Interserve. Motion carried and approved.

Next Meeting Date: April 14, 2020

Devotions and Meal: Dan Ekholm

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Becky Woll with second by Jerry Olson. Motion carried and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.