

TLC Church Council Meeting – February 9, 2021
Transfiguration Lutheran Church

Attendees:

Staff: Pastor Arthur Murray, Pastor Eva Jensen

Council: Melinda Chau, Dave Dickson, Steve Jorschumb, Melissa Klement, Steve Mattson, Janice Milford, Cary Pao, Gretchen Schroeder, Becky Woll

Regrets: none

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:19 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Becky Woll with second by Dave Dickson to approve the agenda with adjustments. Motion carried and approved.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Gretchen Schroeder

Motion by Melinda Chau with second by Becky Woll to approve the January Council meeting minutes. Motion carried and approved.

Financial Report: Jerry Olson

- General Fund receipts for January 2021 totaled \$70,475. Disbursements totaled \$63,449, resulting in a surplus of \$7,026 for the month. This is a good start to the year, with reduced expenses compared to January 2020.
- Capital campaign receipts totaled \$13,498 with expenditures of \$16,790. The January deficit is \$3,292. The \$5,000 payment to the mortgage was missed in January and will go out next month. There remains a surplus of \$30,297 for the entire campaign to date.
- Motion by Dave Dickson with second by Cary Pao to approve the January financial report. Motion carried and approved.

Pastors Report: Eva Jensen

This day marks three weeks and three days of service with you as Interim Co-pastor at Transfiguration Lutheran Church. I am grateful for this time of service in ministry with you, for the trust and hope that you have extended in your call to me. During December and January, Pastor Arthur Murray and I met to plan and prepare for my January 16th beginning. He provided some orientation to who you are as a congregation – mission, members, leadership and staff; brief history; strategic planning; and orientation to your current ministries.

I first greeted the congregation in a video-recorded message on January 17th and have since been present every Sunday – preaching and leading worship (on two Sundays), in a meet and greet zoom gathering with congregational members, in the “My Grandmother’s Hands” (MGH) group gatherings and in the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Pastor Arthur and all staff of TLC have been welcoming, encouraging and supportive as I stepped into the new learning context of video-recorded worship planning and leadership, and getting to know you as a congregation. In this time of physically distanced

living under the challenges of COVID-19, I am deeply grateful for the orientation and welcome extended to me.

Summary of engagements in addition to the above:

Staff meetings every week: pastoral care, all staff, worship- planning, extended worship planning and pastoral team leadership

Worship recording sessions with Brad Nolte

Office set-up and orientation with Michelle Reber and Marilyn Erickson

Finance meetings with Nancy Waldack and Pastor Arthur and the Finance Team

Gatherings with MGH

TLC Racial Justice Committee meeting

Minneapolis Area Synod Racial Justice Task Force

TLC RIC Committee meeting

TLC Mission and Outreach Committee meeting

LC Personnel Committee meeting

Antares Tech. support and trouble-shooting

Annual Meeting

Council Meeting

I am grateful for the grace and warmth of your welcome, as I take these first steps into ministry with you – sometimes overwhelmed and disoriented, I appreciate every person I have met, every conversation and this beginning, which provides a glimpse into the expansiveness of your faith, life and ministry as a community.

I anticipate deepening relationships and engagement over the next month as patterns of your life together become clearer, names and faces become familiar, and my role with you takes shape more concretely. Additionally, I look forward to conversations with Pastor Arthur and the Strategic Planning Team, learning more about the work you have done and discerning a process for planning the interim participatory congregational exploration of your shared identity, mission, values and priorities in ministry.

I pray for God's blessings of wisdom and grace to guide us. Pastor Eva Jensen

Pastors Report: Pastor Arthur Murray

Overview

- Many, many thanks to all who worked so hard to pull off an unprecedented and never to be repeated Annual Meeting, especially the Council.
- Special thanks are also due to Steve Jorschumb, Nancy Waldack and Michelle Reber for pro-actively applying for and receiving a second PPP loan. The timely completion of this process really set us up well for the Annual Meeting and for Budget approval.
- Particular thanks and welcome to Cary Pao, Janice Millford and Dave Dickson, along with Melissa Klement and Gretchen Schroeder for re-upping, for their willingness to serve Christ and the Church in this significant way.

- Serving the Pastor Eva is already a joy. Staff has welcomed her in wholeheartedly. Thank you, Pastor Eva.

Attendance

- Online attendance continues to be strong, with some of our highest attended services in the last 11 months occurring in the last few weeks.

Pastoral Acts

- We have one funeral (6 people attending) scheduled in the church for February along with one wedding (20 people attending). These are the both the first of their kind since Covid began.
- Seven funerals await scheduling once the building reopens for larger gatherings.
- We have a number of families also interested in joining as new members along with at least eight baptisms pending. Some may happen prior to full reopening, some after.

Upcoming Worship

- This coming Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday. Normally we would install the new Council on this date. Suggest waiting till we are back in person.
- Feb 17 is Ash Wednesday. Ashes have been mailed to all members.
- Feb 28 is Reconciling in Christ Sunday. Guest preacher. Rev. Jeff Sartain from Edina Community Lutheran.
- We are hoping for an outdoor Easter service on April 4.
- Synod services are being offered the weekend after Easter and Memorial Day weekend.

Adult Education

- I am very encouraged by the strong response and compelling first sessions of the My Grandmother's Hands book study led by Jordan Zahrte, Pastor Laura Thelander and Irene Amon. 32 people are participating including 7 non-members and 4 youth. Last minute registrations are still being accepted by Jordan until this Friday. Pastor Eva and I are both participating.

Synod Events

- The Bloomington Conference Assembly meets next Tuesday at 11:30am. President and Synod reps are asked to attend if possible.
- Synod Tool Kit 2021 is Saturday March 13 9am-Noon. This is highly recommended for all Council members and congregational leaders.
- I will forward the Synod email with details on both events.

Covid Response

- These next weeks could be very tricky. Numbers are dropping. We will be experimenting with more in-person programming. Experts are also predicting another surge. I am very grateful for the Covid Team and their work to stay on top of this on a weekly and even daily basis. I am thankful for Pastor Eva's willingness to participate in this team as well. As we are seeing in the schools, re-opening is in some ways harder than the stasis of being closed. Prayers are appreciated and wise counsel valued.

Covid-19 Response Team Update:

- Hennepin County numbers have dropped to 23.5 cases per 10,000. Phase 3 of re-opening allows for limited in-person worship service, which is scheduled for March 14th at 8:30am. Participants will need to register beforehand.
- Confirmation groups are being given the option to meet in-person. Currently working out the details. This assumes numbers continue to stay below 30.

Old Business:

- **Pastor Arthur Review**
 - Steve Jorschumb will be scheduling the review with Pastor Arthur and the Executive Council.

- **Division of Pastoral Duties:**
 - Three responsibilities need to be added to the Division of Pastoral Duties. Both pastors will be involved in all 3, but have been assigned as responsible party per the co-pastor resolution as follows:
 - Maintenance of parochial records – Pastor Eva
 - Membership on Council and related powers – Pastor Arthur
 - Discipline of members – Pastor Arthur
 - Motion by Dave Dickson with second by Becky Woll to amend the previously approved Division of Pastoral Responsibilities to include 3 additional duties. Motion carried and approved.

New Business:

- **Benevolence Appeal**
 - Follow-up discussion on the matching grant offer by John Thomson brought up at the Annual Meeting.
 - Motion by Janice Milford with second by Gretchen Schroeder to approve letter to be sent to the congregation. Motion carried and approved.

- **Confidentiality Agreement:** Diane Erickson, Chair of Personnel Committee
 - Shared proposed data practice confidentiality agreement
 - Discussed if council was open to the idea and made a few suggestions to the wording.
 - Look for a revised version next month

- **Membership Roster**
 - Connects with Maintenance of parochial records. Records to be updated during discernment process.
 - There are roughly 450 active households, so its not unreasonable to assume there are 1700 active members.
 - Marilyn Erickson is keeping the database updated.
 - Will add additional tracking metrics to membership data in next year's Annual Report.
 - No action required at this time.

Next Meeting Date: March 9, 2021

Devotions: Becky Woll

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Becky Woll with second by Melinda Chau. Motion carried and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.