

**TLC Church Council Meeting – January 12, 2021**  
**Transfiguration Lutheran Church**

**Attendees:**

Staff: Pastor Arthur Murray

Council: Melinda Chau, Steve Jorschumb, Melissa Klement, Allison Lindman, Steve Mattson,  
Jerry Olson, Gretchen Schroeder, Sandy Stooke, Becky Woll

Guest: Nancy Waldack

**Regrets:** none

**Devotions:** Steve Jorschumb

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm.

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

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Gretchen Schroeder

Motion by Melinda Chau with second by Allison Lindman to approve the December Council meeting minutes. Motion carried and approved.

**Financial Report / 2021 Budget:** Jerry Olson, Nancy Waldack

- 2020 financials were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the PPP loan. The 2021 budget is also impacted by these same two factors.
- General Fund receipts for December 2020 totaled \$64,202. Disbursements totaled \$74,239, resulting in a deficit of \$10,037 for the month. The YTD balance is a deficit of \$80,841. Expenses for the year were almost on budget, while receipts were down due to reductions in non-envelope giving and miscellaneous income from funerals, weddings, and space rentals. The church has adequate cash flow due to the PPP loan.
- Capital campaign receipts totaled \$36,853 with expenditures of \$15,116. The December surplus is \$21,737, and the YTD surplus is \$23,335. There remains a surplus of \$33,587 for the entire campaign to date.
- Motion by Gretchen Schroeder with second by Sandy Stooke to approve the December financial report. Motion carried and approved.
- Both the operating budget and capital campaign budget for 2021 were presented.
- We will be applying for a second PPP loan once the application is available. This is reflected in the proposed 2021 operating budget.
- Motion by Becky Woll with second by Allison Lindman to approve the 2021 operating budget and the capital campaign budget. Motion carried and approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Arthur Murray

Advent/Christmas/ Epiphany

- There was much to be grateful for over the past month.

- TLC staff went above and beyond on their efforts to produce creative, faithful meaningful services throughout the season. See the attached letter that Steve and I sent to staff along with a thank you gift on Christmas Eve.
- Advent worship included the featuring of women's voices. A special thanks are due to Pastor Melanie, Pastor Laura, Jordan Z. and Diane N. for their outstanding and faithful preaching during Advent and to Pete Erickson for Epiphany Sunday.
- Many thanks are also due to Pete for taking the lead role in coordinating and editing the online Family Nativity. It was a highlight of the season with some great family participation.
- Pastor Melanie continues to bring joy and love to our families with young children. Sunday morning Zoom Sunday School continues to be well attended.
- We also gratefully received the offering of another service from the Minneapolis Area Synod the Sunday after Christmas.
- Marilyn continues to keep in good touch with families who do not have online access.

#### Attendance

- Attendance remains strong. Christmas Eve services were viewed as follows:

##### **Dec 24 Christmas Eve**

- 106 2:00pm Family Nativity Program
- 186 3:30pm Candlelight Service
- 238 5:00pm Candlelight Service
- 68 7:00pm Family Nativity Program
- 158 9:00pm Candlelight Service
- 104 11:00pm Candlelight Service

##### **Dec 25 Christmas Day**

- 120 8:00am to 8:30pm - Viewers of continuous loop of both Nativity & Candlelight services (back to back)
- Attendance in January has been continued to be strong, averaging between 350-400 per week.
- Many thanks to Jordan Z. for her efforts in engaging through Facebook. Special thanks to her work on the 12 days of Christmas musical offerings!

#### Ed's Farewell Gift

- Many thanks to those who donated to Ed's farewell gift. We came close to matching the \$5000 challenge from two TLC households.

#### Pastoral Acts

- There are at least seven baptisms waiting to be performed once Covid subsides. We can begin on some of these soon as they can be done with smaller gatherings.
- Currently there are eight funerals awaiting scheduling once the building reopens for larger gatherings.
- I presided at one funeral service at Washburn-McReavey for Helen Olive.

#### Financial

- The Financial Team met yesterday and unanimously recommends applying for the second PPP loan disbursement.
- Without this funding we will need to consider either a second appeal to the congregation or reduction of staff.

### Interim Pastor

- Pastor Eva begins at TLC on January 16. We have met several times to create a proposal for the Council of division of responsibility. This can also be sent to the Synod as an update on our letters of call. See New Business. Pastor Eva will preach and lead worship on January 24.

### Racial Justice Sunday

- I am very grateful to Rev. Janice Gonoë who will preach this coming Sunday along with Agnes Nushann who will lead us in song and Stephen Nushann who will offer a Spoken Word poetry reading. There is an additional service MLK weekend service being offered at 8:30am from Church Anew via our website.

### Adult Education

- Our long awaited congregational reading of My Grandmother's Hands by local MN author Resmaa Menakem begins with an introduction this Sunday at 11am on Zoom. Pastor Eva and I will both be taking part as we believe deeply in the importance of the need for ongoing work centered on undoing the legacy of white supremacy that continues to permeate every aspect of our culture and lives, including our churches. I highly recommend it and invite Council to join us.
- Pastor Eva is also planning on initiating another Adult Education offering, possible a new study on the gospel of Mark (the gospel assigned to us this year).

### Youth Minister Assessment and Transition

- This work was on hold for a time, but Pete will be restarting his efforts in this area and working to coordinate them with Pastor Eva's interim assessment work.

### **Old Business:**

- **Covid-19 Response Team Update:**
  - Covid case numbers are coming back down. The team is starting to plan for hybrid youth ministry.
  - Additional adjustments, such as in-person 8:30 worship, will be made if numbers fall below 30 and stay there.
- **Racial Justice Statement:** Jerry Olson
  - Reviewed the proposed Racial Justice Statement from the Racial Justice team.
  - Motion by Becky Woll with second by Jerry Olson to bring the Racial Justice Statement to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Motion carried and approved.
- **Council Staffing:**
  - Thank you to Jerry Olson, Sandy Stooke, and Allison Lindman for serving on Council.
  - The nominating committee has 4 candidates for the 4 open positions.
- **Annual Review of Pastor Arthur**
  - Steve Jorschumb will be scheduling the review with Pastor Arthur and the Executive Council.

### **New Business:**

- **Division of Pastoral Duties**
  - Reviewed division of pastoral responsibilities list.

- Motion by Gretchen Schroeder with second by Melinda Chau to approve the Division of Pastoral Responsibilities. Motion carried and approved.
- **Property Committee Report**
  - List of church repair projects compiled by Keith Olson from back in March are all still outstanding. Big thing right now is painting and the future of the Thursday morning group.
  - Building maintenance needs to be addressed as part of the next capital campaign.
- **Annual Meeting**
  - Annual Meeting notification to go out next Sunday for January 31<sup>st</sup> Annual meeting being held virtually.
  - Voting – only those attending the meeting can vote. Ballots for elected positions are required to be written. Ballots will be mailed out prior to meeting. Paper ballots will be compared to the meeting attendance list, including those calling in by phone.
  - Group to meet tomorrow to figure out the ballot and agenda.
  - Working session to plan and test virtual process scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.
- **Housing Allowance**
  - Motion by Sandy Stooke with second by Gretchen Schroeder to approve \$50,000 of Pastor Arthur's salary to be designated as housing allowance. Motion carried and approved.

**Next Meeting Date:** February 9, 2021

**Devotions:**

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Becky Woll with second by Allison Lindman. Motion carried and approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.