

## Holy Trinity Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Judy Evans, Steve Bauer, Tom Bernth, Ed Mallon, Pam Shaw, Erlinde Beliveau, Pastor Luther

Excused: Kristen Crawford

September 19, 2020

6:30 – 8:30

### **We Gather in God's Name**

#### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Devotions – Erlinde**

#### **Blessings - Wonderful first Sunday with Pastor Luther and Pat**

#### **Thank you notes**

Minutes of August 8, 2023 approved online.

(Most important items designated by \*\*)

### **We Celebrate and Give Thanks for the Past – reports to be posted in the drop box**

- Pastor's Report - See Report
- Treasurer Report - See reports
- Secretary Report - No report with exception of Chart outlining use of Pastor Funds for those in need.
- Ministry Team Reports
  - Serve the Lord – Pam Shaw
    - Jessica Feeley (heads up both international and local outreach programs) will meet with Pastor and Pam. Cheryl Brigham heads up “Caring Connections”, our in-reach program within the church.
  - Grow in Faith – Tom Bernth - No report.
  - Come Together – Ed Mallon - No report. Ed will talk to Jo Whiting whether the Tables of 8 has run its course or if there is a need to continue this means of connection within the church. Pastor mentioned that perhaps the function or need to organize and provide nourishment and food for members in need (whether that be due to infirmity or a death in the family) be under the umbrella of “Come Together” (hospitality) versus “Serve the Lord”.

### **We Seek God's Direction for our Church – Follow-up**

- Housing Allowance Resolution for Pastor Luther - follow up
  - The Council fully endorsed the proposed Housing Allowance. See attached below.
- By-laws – estimate date for completion of revisions \*\*
  - The hope and challenge is for these revisions to be complete by our Annual Meeting in January.
- Property Team – update on status
  - Steve shared a letter outlining the options for us to continue to care for our property. He will share these options with the congregation.
- Steeple Refurbishment - update: This will be done next year as the weather is no longer conducive to refurbish the steeple this year.
- Safe Church Policy – estimate date for development, process for developing\*\*
  - Erlinde will find and share the document (written 5 years ago) with Council to review. Pastor Luther also said he had a written document outlining Safe Church practices to refer to as well. Pastor submitted his

certificate that verifies his training in Safe Church Policies. (See in Dropbox under Safe Church Information) All Council has committed to viewing the video link from the Synod on Safe Church Practices before our next meeting. Judy will resend this link.

- Sanctuary Cross - update: on hold
- Plans for Pastor Luther's Installation - update: All is going well!
- Fee Schedule for Funerals, Weddings for Non-members, Members and Friends – strategy to develop
  - Erlinde will gather and print information Mark Donahue has found from other local churches and propose a price structure for members and non-members for Council's review.
  - Of imminent need is someone to organize a reception for two upcoming funerals of two of our members. No one is presently undertaking this task. Erlinde (will be the contact to Kristin Crawford), Pam, Ed and Judy will order and organize the reception for Jean Dalzell (funeral 9/29 at 11 am). Need coverage for Gisela Wemple's service. Pastor will talk to the Thursday morning group regarding this.
  - In the future, Pastor shared that developing a booklet that focuses on Wedding Planning and Funeral Planning within our church would be an asset for members and non-members alike.
- Support for the Indonesian congregation - how to proceed with conversation from last meeting \*\*
  - A task force committee will meet that will be led by Ed Mallon. The Council endorses supporting the Indonesian Congregation. The committee will outline the structure to educate and explore ways to implement this financial support.

#### **We Seek God's Direction for our Church – New Business**

- Creation Care – Glenn Oswald, 7PM
  - Steve motioned that Council fully endorsed the Creation Care Proposal as submitted by Glenn Oswald. Pam seconded this motion. All voted in favor. A "Creation Care Task Force" will be established to study, explore, and consider the requirements of the options for HTELC to become a "Caring for Creation Covenant" congregation, or a "Green Church". This will be done in consultation with Pastor Luther. Glenn will also attend the New England Synod: "Caring for Creation Gathering!" workshop at Holy Trinity Church in Worcester on Saturday, October 28. The council supports another church member attending this workshop with Glenn.
- New Member Classes – plans for the fall
  - The class will occur over 3 sessions. This will be on the third Sundays after church in the months of October, November and December. The theme for October will be being a Christian, November - being a Episcopal sprinkled Lutheran, December - being a member of HTELC.
- Council Retreat – how to develop agenda \*\*
  - Will review and revise agenda created earlier this year. This will be sent in an email to the Council.
- Nominating Team – formation \*\*
  - Judy will ask two members to join she and Steve to form the Nominating Committee.
- Mutual Ministry – discussion of makeup : This is tabled. Pastor hopes to meet quarterly with this team.
- Columbarium considerations
  - Two questions arose regarding Columbarium guidelines. The council approved a request to have one slot be used for two people (a couple). Another request that could not be honored was viewing the Columbarium from the outside of the church. This is not possible due to safety reasons.

- Stewardship – plan for 2023 \*\*
  - o Dave Arrington is organizing the Stewardship Program this year. Dan will provide to the congregation some statistics regarding members’ giving over the past few years.

**Upcoming Events**

- Celebration of New Ministry – October 1, 2023, 4pm

**We Look to the Future**

- Agenda Items for next month: Tom expressed a need to expand out our future thinking to a longer period of time (e.g. one year). This was agreed upon by Council and perhaps will be a point of discussion during our retreat.
- Next Council meeting – October 10, 2023. Kristen has devotions.

**Closing Prayer**

**Attachment:**

**HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEWINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL  
REGARDING THE HOUSING ALLOWANCE  
FOR THE PASTOR**

Whereas, The Rev’d Luther Zeigler has been duly called by the congregation to serve as Pastor of Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (“the Church”), a non-profit religious organization located in Newington, New Hampshire;

Whereas Pastor Zeigler will commence his employment with the Church on September 11, 2023;

Whereas, the Church does not provide a residence for Pastor Zeigler, but wishes some portion of his salary to be designated for the maintaining of a home residence;

Be it hereby resolved by a duly authorized vote of the Church Council that of the total annual salary to be paid to Pastor Zeigler, \$51,504.00, be designated as a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in 26 U.S. Code § 107 of the Internal Revenue Code, 116 Stat. 583.

Effective as of September 1, 2023