**Holy Trinity Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 10, 2023**

**6:30 – 8:30**

**Present: Pastor Luther, Judy Evans, Steve Bauer, Pam Shaw, Ed Mallon, Kristen Crawford, Erlinde Beliveau**

**Excused Absence: Tom Bernth**

**We Gather in God’s Name**

**Opening Prayer**

**Devotions – Pastor**

**Blessings**

**Thank you notes -** Installation Service: Priscilla (organist at Installation), Leslie Carson (flowers), Eileen Kackenmeister (food), Jeanne’s funeral: Heidi Morrison and Leslie Carson (flowers), Cheryl Brigham and her husband (food and setup). Emmanuel Church for being flexible and open to sharing their time with Pastor Luther on Christmas Eve.

Minutes of September 12, approved online.

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

* Pastor Report - See report
* Treasurer Report - See Report
* Secretary Report - See report
* Ministry Team Reports
	+ Serve the Lord – Pam Shaw: See Report
	+ Grow in Faith – Tom Bernth: No report
	+ Come Together – Ed Mallon; No report
		- Discussion ensued about worship assistance sign ups. We concluded that sign up genius is not working for us as intended. Plan to share the need of a “Volunteer Coordinator “ for this task. At the end of a service, Pastor will also share this need, and invite everyone to sign up for one of the roles that day. A list will be developed from which the Coordinator can work from and set up worship assistances 2 months ahead of time as previously done. Members can switch if the timing does not work in their schedule.

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

* Retreat agenda and plans: Discussed time frames and divided 7 sessions up so each of us facilitates a session.
* Property Team – update: discussed next steps as Dave Mercer has stepped down in his much appreciated role of leading the Property Team. Thank you Dave!
* Support for Imanuel Indonesian Lutheran Congregation - See Ed’s report. Council accepted Ed’s motion that the Council sign a written pledge that we provide $10,000 to help Imanuel Indonesian Lutheran Congregation move forward to secure the process of the return of Pastor Esme in her role as the Lutheran spiritual leader of the congregation. As part of her immigration process, this pledge will be a vehicle of securing the promise of paid employment before entering the country. Immanuel has raised $15,000 in pledges. Kristen seconded this motion. Motion was passed. Plan is to write an article in the Tidings sharing this action and then have an Adult Forum sometime in the first quarter of next year focusing on Immigration.
* New Member Classes – Third new date to be determined. Pastor hopes to find a date all potential new members can attend to foster community and connection. Council agrees.
* Nominating Committee – Judy is waiting for responses to calls sent out to form the committee.
* Stewardship Plans – See Pastor’s report. Plan includes getting pledging information from Dan.
* Safe Church - Council discussed the great value of viewing the Synod video on Safe Church. Erlinde distributed Safe Church sample policies (Pastor shared with us previously) from the Synod as well as a policy written in 2017 by Scott Carson and Pastor Tim. Plan to read, review, and consolidate to formerly update our policy.
* Planning for funerals: At a later point in time, Pastor will create a booklet to share with families that will be reviewed by Council.

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

* Homeless individuals staying on our grounds
	+ Pastor, Mark and Judy discussed a number of concerns (related to liability and health/sanitation issues) that had come up regarding homeless individuals staying on our grounds. One of the conclusions of this meeting was that Pastor would speak to the homeless individuals living on our property. Pastor did speak to one of the two homeless individuals in our parking lot about the need to find another place to stay for the reasons mentioned previously.
	+ Presently: Mark provides individuals with a bag of food and list of social service agencies in the area. Gas and food cards are distributed on an as needed or TBD basis, with monies coming from the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund by both Mark and Pastor. At least one homeless person (individuals vary) comes to the church on a daily basis. Pastor meets with these individuals who need a wide array of social service assistance.
	+ Plan: After much discussion among Council, we concluded that Holy Trinity does not have the resources or expertise to fully support the many and various needs of these individuals. Our plan is to write a framework to outline what we, as a church can and can not do (due to our limited resources) to help homeless individuals, respecting their needs and the resources of Mark and Pastor.
* Tanzania involvement – direction for the future
	+ Ed made a motion that we support the release of funds (given by Holy Trinity) and held by Bega Kwa Bega in the amount of 9,000,000 tschillings for use in Isimani to upgrade their youth hostels. Judy seconded this motion. Motion was passed.
* Request to post council minutes - tabled

**Upcoming Events**

* October 15, First of 3 New Member Sessions - Dates are being worked on so all can attend.
* October 15, Presentation about Operation Blessing
* October 22, Stewardship Sunday, Presentation about Dover Friendly Kitchen
* October 29, Reformation Sunday
* November 5, 2nd Indonesian Cooking Class

 **We Look to the Future**

* Agenda Items for next month: TBD
* Next Council meeting – Date to be determined Tuesday, November 12th??

**Closing Prayer**