**Holy Trinity Council Meeting Minutes**

**November 21, 2023**

**6:30 – 8:30**

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

**Excused Absence: Steve Bauer, Kristen Crawford**

**We Gather in God’s Name**

**Opening Prayer**

**Devotions - Erlinde**

**Blessings**

Thank you notes - Scott and Leslie for heading up the Property Work Party, Donation to Pastor’s Fund from the estate of a member (George) of Emmanuel Church.

Minutes of October 10, 2023 approved online

**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 - See report
* Ministry Team Reports
  + Serve the Lord – Pam Shaw
    - 12/13 Caring Connections is serving Advent supper
    - 11/29 Meeting with Cheryl Brigham, Judy and Pastor to discuss the various functions of Caring Connections and how we can best meet the pastoral needs of the congregation.
  + Grow in Faith – Tom Bernth
    - See report
  + Come Together – Ed Mallon
    - Ed continues to invite members to engage and commit to participating in our worship experience with success.

**Follow-up Discussion**

* **Outcomes of Council Retreat, Review and Planning**
* Hospitality, Coffee Hour, Flower ministry
  + Openings are being filled for greeters with the momentum beginning to take shape. future meeting will take place.
* Worship Assistants
  + Openings are being filled for Advent.
* Worship and Music Planning - Discussions are taking place to revisit the structure of our Music Program. As plans are solidified, Judy will share with congregation in the Tidings/Bulletin.
* Advent, Christmas Planning, Christmas mailing, update plans on website
  + Pastor has met with the Worship Team and plans are underway. Judy will ask Mark to add the services to our web site and advertise in local papers.
* Indonesian Forum - All set for 12/10 Adult Forum.
* Faith Formation - See report
* What/ how do we communicate retreat outcomes and future plans to congregation - Judy’s and Erlinde will write a paragraph for the Tidings/bulletin.
* **Budget Preparation Preliminary Discussion**
  + Request to include discretionary fund for council for emergency use - there is already a line item for this with no funds.
    - Other lines to add include Capital Improvements (put to 5% of budget) and reorganize Music lines to more accurately represent positions.
* **Nominating Committee Recommendations**
* Council vacancies - Discussion and Recommendations approved.
* Attendees for Synod Convention - Discussion and Recommendations approved.
* Suggestions for Mutual Ministry Team - Discussion and Recommendations approved.

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

* Property Team – Sunday Work Party accomplished a number of items on the agenda. Discussed need for a member to manage the projects that require hiring out.
* New Member Classes – 16 new members, with the last class being 12/17.
* Safe Church – follow-up: Materials need to be streamlined. Continued need.
* Planning for Funerals - Pastor will organize the necessary information.
* Follow up regarding helping those who have needs both within and outside of our congregation: Although there is a Pastor’s Discretionary Fund line item in our budget, the logistics of this process is not streamlined. In order to improve this, the Council approved a new bank account be opened titled, “Pastor’s Discretionary Fund”. This will track the in/out funds. Both Pastor and Mark will have access to this account using debit cards to purchase gift cards for those in need.

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

* Tanzania involvement – direction for the future: will e discussed in January
* Request to post council minutes - accepted. Will be on posted on kiosk.
* Caring Team meeting, November 29, 2023
* Council to prepare soup supper on Dec. 20
* Council attendance at New Member class Dec. 17 - 2-3 members will attend.

Next Council meeting – December 12, 2023

**Closing Prayer**