

TLC Church Council Meeting December 11, 2018
Transfiguration Lutheran Church

Attendees:

Council: Evan Collins, Dick Haugen, Carol Hill, Beth Mercer, Jerry Olson, Laurel Riippa, Zac Schnedler, Sandy Stooke, Patti Weichselbaum

Staff: Pastor Ed Treat, Pastor Arthur Murray

Guest: Hildred Dungan

Devotion: Zac Schnedler

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Beth Mercer at 6:38 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Two additions were made to the proposed agenda:

1. Report from Pastoral Leadership Team
2. Review of Council vacancies for 2019 elections

Motion by Evan Collins and second by Patti Weichselbaum to approve the agenda. Motion carried and approved.

Review and approval of minutes: Carol Hill. Motion by Dick Haugen and Patti Weichselbaum to approve the minutes. Motion carried and approved.

Review and approval of November 2018 Financial Report: Jerry Olson

- General Fund receipts for November totaled \$71,966 which is a decrease when compared with October. Total disbursements totaled \$61,113. The disbursements for November were the lowest monthly total for the year.
- Capital Campaign receipts in November totaled \$12,059. Capital Campaign expenditures totaled \$21,365. This includes \$3500 which has been transferred to the operating budget.
- Council members made suggestions to the Financial Report which will be posted.

Motion by Evan Collins and second by Zac Schnedler to approve the financial report. Motion carried and approved.

Pastor's Report:

Working hard in several areas in particular right now as we move through the already busy seasons of Advent and Christmas—conflict resolution, pastoral leadership transition team, stewardship, strategic planning, and the financial planning team.

The work with the concerned members group to resolve conflict has taken much time and energy for many of us. It has brought to light a sobering assessment of TLC and the challenges we face, but many reasons to be hopeful as well. Thank you all for faithfully working this through. It has been gratifying to experience healthy process in dealing with conflict. I am certain your great and faithful leadership will take us to a better place. We believe in a God who brings great things out of difficulty and I have no doubt this is what will happen here. Thank you for all the extra work you have all given to this.

Continue work with the pastoral leadership transition team. Pastor Arthur and I took a day long retreat to outline our vision about how we might work together going forward. We are excited to share this with council and talk about what this might mean for TLC going forward.

The stewardship team for TLC is one of the best, most positive can-do group I've ever worked with in the church. I am grateful for their efforts. We continue with follow-through, with plans to reach out to more people and send thank you's to the 91 who increased giving and the 29 new pledges.

Strategic planning continues their good work and will now be working to incorporate some of the survey findings, feedback and information from the congregational assessment going forward.

The financial planning team has done a remarkable job of finding a way to make our budget work going forward. With an estimated \$140,000 shortfall going into the coming year we are now very near to making the budget balance. Amazing work by an amazing group. I am so grateful.

I continue to be grateful for our amazing staff and the team we have here. Staff morale is high despite the congregational rumblings we are working through. Michelle is keeping the place running better all the time, finding many ways to save money. I can't say enough for Brad Nolte and for the gift he is. And we really need to find a meaningful way to say thank you for Marilyn for all she does. Renee celebrates 20 years this year at TLC and we want to recognize her this Sunday. I would like the council to think of a special way to thank her with a special gift, either this Sunday or at the annual meeting.

Stephen ministers have been recruited and interviewed and will begin training in January with approximately 10 ministers committed to this important ministry. Very exciting to see.

Christmas is here...Advent services are underway—I hope you are all attending.

Annual reporting is ahead of schedule with Beth Rahn and her team working hard on nominations. Reports are due by December 21. Please have your reports in on time.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and thank you for the great privilege I feel to be serving this church with all of you. God bless you all. Pastor Ed

Old Business

- Stewardship Committee Report: Hildred Dungan reported on the activities of the Stewardship Committee and the results of the stewardship campaign. Members of the committee include Pastor Ed Treat, Pastor Arthur Murray, Bob Riley, Norma McDonald Ockwig, Chip Smith and Hildred Dungan as chair. While overall pledges are a little less than last year, almost half of those who did pledge increased their pledges by an average of 16 percent and there are 29 new pledges. Members of the Stewardship Committee are making follow up calls and emails.
- Benevolence Committee update: Bob Riley distributed a proposed TLC Benevolence Budget for 2019. The proposed budget is \$81,000 with \$30,000 going to the Minneapolis Synod, and \$40,000 proposed as the in-kind contribution to the ELC. The remaining funds will be allocated in early 2019 to agencies where they are felt to be most effective.

New Business

- Recommendation from the Financial Development Team. Pastor Arthur presented a Financial Development Charter which includes a Team Membership Flow Chart and a framework for developing and implementing clear strategies for financial stability. The TLC Foundation Board meeting minutes were also distributed

- Pastoral Leadership Team. Pastor Arthur distributed a draft document outlining a proposal for pastoral leadership at TLC. This will be further discussed at the January Council meeting. It will also be on the agenda for January meeting of the Strategic Planning Team.

- CAT assessment—open discussion. Tabled

- Review of council members' terms:

Council members may serve 3 consecutive terms.

The following council members have one more year on their current term: Evan Collins, Zac Schnedler, Patti Weichselbaum. As this is their first term, they would be eligible to run again for another 2 year term in 2020 and in 2022. Carol Hill and Laurel Riippa also have one year left on their current term and are eligible to run for one more 2 year term in 2020.

Dick Haugen and Beth Mercer are completing their first term and have elected to not run for a second term.

Sandy Stooke is completing the term of Gary Lewis and has agreed to run in 2019 for her own term.

Jerry Olson is completing his first term and has agreed to run in 2019 for his second term.

Next Meeting Date: January 8, 2019—6 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. meeting

Devotions: Laurel Riippa

Meal: Beth Mercer

Closing Prayer: Pastor Ed led the Council in a closing prayer.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Patti Weichselbaum with second by Laurel Riippa. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.