

**TLC Church Council Meeting  
Transfiguration Lutheran Church**

September 11, 2018

**Attendees:**

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

Staff: Pastor Ed Treat, Pastor Arthur Murray

Regrets: Dick Haugen, Gary Lewis

**Devotion:** Evan Collins

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Evan Collins and second by Patti Weichselbaum to approve the agenda. Motion carried and approved.

**Review and approval of minutes** of August 8, 2018: Carol Hill. Motion by Laurel Riippa and Patti Weichselbaum to approve the minutes. Motion carried and approved.

**Executive Session** to discuss concerns from members of the congregation. Motion by Jerry Olson and second by Zac Schnedler to move into Executive Session for 20 minutes with option to extend as necessary. Motion carried and approved. At the end of the 20 minute period, motion by Zac Schnedler and Evan Collins to extend the Executive Session by 10 minutes. Motion carried and approved. After extensive discussion, motion by Zac Schnedler and second by Evan Collins for the Executive leaders to meet with the five people who represent the concerns expressed in the letter with an arbitrator from the Bishop's office also present. Motion carried and approved. Executive session closed at 7:35 p.m. Motion by Evan Collins with second by Patti Weichselbaum to reopen the executive session at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried and approved. Motion to close the Executive Session at 8:45 by Patti Weichselbaum and second by Zac Schnedler. Motion carried and approved.

**Review and approval of August 2018 Financial Report:** Jerry Olson.

- General Fund receipts for August totaled 43, 624. Total Disbursements totaled \$71, 394 resulting in a deficit net income figure of \$27, 770. The decrease in receipts has resulted in shrinking the surplus for the year.
- Capital Campaign receipts for August totaled \$15, 647, Capital Campaign expenditures totaled \$18, 108, resulting in a deficit of \$2461. The YTD figures remain above budget on receipts and below budget on expenditures.
- Council members suggested editorial changes to the report to be submitted to Transcripts.

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

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ed Treat

We had a very successful, fun and exciting TLCelebrates event August 15. The place was packed, we ran out of food. Lost a fire engine, Patti Weichselbaum had a great suggestion.

Received the resignation of administrative staff person, Sarah Lanier. Worked closely with Personnel Team for exit interview and smooth transition of tasks and creative solution for covering those tasks. Michelle Reber will be taking over financial responsibilities with training from Sue Brickley, Brad Nolte will take over all communications as an off-site contract worker, Marilyn Erickson will produce weekly worship bulletins, and a new job description is being developed for an entry level office worker to handle a variety of office tasks.

Sunday school and Confirmation are now underway thanks to Renee, Arthur, Ben, and some great lay leadership.

Continue working with Bob Riley and Erin Pommeranz, Pastor Arthur and a growing team on Stephen Ministry. There are many steps we are following to prepare for the launch of training which begins January 2019. We are gathering members of the congregation who bring some experience and gifts that will be greatly helpful.

Stewardship as been meeting since March and are putting together the fall campaign. The challenge is great. In order to have a balanced budget going into 2019 and not need a special appeal we will need to realize a 25 percent increase in pledges over last year. That's a big hill to climb. We will explain that in the stewardship campaign and hope our members will step up their pledges.

We held a prayer vigil for Pastor Stephanie last Wednesday night which 165 people attended. Thanks to Jenn Herron for her leadership in inspiring that service. We had a record number of live streaming viewers, 65, and as of today more than 200 on-demand views. This means the messages and services we produce are not gone once they are done as they were in the past. They keep going out preaching the Word.

Rally Sunday was unusual as we were all reeling from the tragic loss of Pastor Stephanie. We had 90 people who tuned in to follow along through live streaming. It was a powerful morning...

Small group ministries are continuing to develop and expand under Arthur and Renee's leadership. We now have:

- A large and growing young mothers' group,
- A caregiver women's group,
- A restarted addiction awareness team,
- A college ministry team,
- A church PTA group,
- Membership Team,
- A busy parents' group,
- A taste of seminary group,
- Memory bears ministry,
- Animal assisted ministry,
- A new immigrant support group,
- A CoDa group,
- A men's caregiver group (forming with Pat McMullen),
- Stephen ministry (under development)
- Go Serve group—potluck planners (forming with the membership team)

Jeanine Brown continues to do outstanding work with the strategic planning process. Implementation and training is under way; several new teams are being formed under her leadership. You will hear an update in our meeting later.

Pastoral care is ongoing. Currently caring for two long time members in Hospice care, Corrine Lunde, and Corolyn Nielson. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Arthur and I continue to work together with a clergy coach are doing some long-range planning together along with some TLC leaders to think through potential leadership scenarios to complement the strategic plan going forward. Plans to be revealed by the annual meeting.

I received a letter on 9/2 from five concerned women of the church. I mailed a response promising them I would address their concerns in an appropriate way. The group, however, is insisting we address their concerns immediately. After consultation with Council President Beth Mercer, the Minneapolis Area Synod, and two church consultants, Mark Bentley and Jerry Wahl, we have developed a plan for responding to their concerns, which is consistent with healthy and proper church practice. Jerry Wahl will be working with TLC leadership to develop plans for conflict management going forward.

I continue to recover from shoulder surgery with ongoing physical therapy. I told my therapist she is just like the church—she keeps finding new ways to hurt me. I am healing slowly but surely.

The Addiction and Faith Conference coming up in two weeks is near sell-out with about 10 more slots available. More than 100 pastors and 100 lay leaders from several denominations across the US will be coming to learn how to mitigate the opioid epidemic. TLC should be proud they are playing such a vital role with this serious problem and actually having a nation-wide impact. It's very exciting. The Holy Spirit is clearly moving.

I am currently counseling three couples toward marriage.

I presided at the wedding of Sara English and Steve Mattson on Saturday, August 11.

Attended the funeral for Marv Stehr.

Assisted with one baptism, Richard Jean Murray last Sunday—our very first international baptism with Godfather Philip Nushann and his congregation in Monrovia, Liberia, in attendance through Skype. They blessed us with a song from their choir. Please pray for Arthur and Laura.

**Old Business:** Pastor Arthur presented an update on the Strategic Plan. Teams have been formed for the six key areas. There is a Pastoral Leadership team which is a sub-team of the Leadership Team. The team chairpersons are members of the overall strategy team. The team is on track with its goals.

**New Business:** Gary Lewis has resigned from the Council because he will be missing a total of four meetings. The Council will select a member to complete Gary's term.

**Next Meeting Date:** October 9, 2018—6 p.m. dinner; 6:30 p.m. meeting

Devotions: Carol Hill

Meal: Beth Mercer

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Arthur led the council in a closing prayer.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the meeting by Laurel Riippa with second by Evan Collins. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.