

TLC Church Council Meeting February 12, 2019
Transfiguration Lutheran Church

Attendees:

Council: Evan Collins, Carol Hill, Allison Lindman, Jerry Olson, Laurel Riippa, Gretchen Schroeder, Sandy Stooke, Zac Schnedler, Patti Weichselbaum

Staff: Pastor Ed Treat, Pastor Arthur Murray (via phone)

Guests: Jeanine Brown, Brian Harrell, John Lindell

Devotion: Evan Collins

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Evan Collins at 6:33 p.m.

Strategic Planning Communications Team: Brian Harrell proposed that TLC set up a comment box, perhaps by the library. He described how the process could work and distributed a description. Discussion followed including: what happens to the actual cards after they have been entered into a data base, who does the entering, who does the followup, could the system eventually be put on line in addition to the box, the system could emphasize “positivity” notes in addition to comments and concerns. Brian noted that the box system, including the data base for entering the cards, could be set up within a month and the online system within two months. He also has an individual willing to enter the cards in the data base.

Note: See “New Business” for council vote on the proposal.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Laurel Riippa with second by Patti Weichselbaum to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- Vote on Comment Box
- Housing allowance for pastors

Motion carried and approved.

Review and approval of minutes: Carol Hill. Motion by Sandy Stooke with second by Patti Weichselbaum to approve the minutes. Motion carried and approved.

Introduction of new Council members: Allison Lindman and Gretchen Schroeder were welcomed to the Council.

Review and Approval of January Financial Report: Jerry Olson

- General Fund receipts for January totaled \$62,767 which is less than January 2018. Total disbursements totaled \$71,421 which is on target for the budget. January 2018 disbursements were higher due to payment of two utilities bills that month.
- Capital Campaign receipts in January totaled \$13,873. Expenditures totaled \$21,670. Sue Brickley plans to transfer the money which is given to the operating fund on a monthly basis.
- Jerry Olson led a discussion of the recommendations from the Financial Review team. Four areas were addressed:
 - Sales tax: reminder when approving expenditures to be sure sales tax has not been charged by the vendor
 - Credit card and check approval process: a suggested plan for ensuring that receipts are turned in prior to the payment of the monthly credit card bill. Michelle Reber is monitoring this.
 - Mileage reimbursement: a suggested formal process for reimbursement of mileage expenses. Jerry will work with Michelle Reber on a plan.

—Servant Keeper and Quick Books reconciliation: recommendation that the Financial Review Committee provide additional oversight to be sure that the funds match between the two systems. It is thought that some of the differences may be timing related; reconciliation has been improved by moving to a quarterly reconciliation process.

—the Financial Review Committee suggests that the members of the team should rotate one member each year, leaving two members with experience on the team. Jerry Olson stated this could be handled by the nominating committee.

Motion by Allison Lindman with second by Patti Weichselbaum to approve the financial report. Motion carried and approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ed Treat

The annual meeting was well attended and longer than average. I felt there was an overall good feeling from it, well most of it. Arthur and I received a large number of very positive comments following the meeting. This congregation continues to struggle faithfully and meaningfully with how to do church in today's world and it is encouraging to me. There are many good things to celebrate despite all the challenges we face both external and internal. God is not done here, that's for sure and we have some really great leaders stepping forward.

We continue work with the pastoral leadership transition team and continue to develop the vision as we work through the questions and concerns. Again, thank you for all this good ongoing work.

The consultants working with the congregation around recent issues raised and has provided us with a report of their impressions and some recommendations going forward.

Strategic planning continues and we are now with the help and leadership of Jeanine Brown to incorporate what we learned through the church assessment findings. We continue to gather feedback and information from the congregation and use those inputs to continue to shape the vision.

Stephen ministers' training continues and we expect to commission 10 ministers in May after a total of 50 contact hours of training.

We welcomed ten new members to TLC in January. Please put these (pictures of new members) in your directories if you haven't already and make a point of getting to know these great people.

We continue to set new records for online streaming worship attendance with last Sunday setting a new record.

Please wear your church council name badges whenever at TLC. You can keep them in your mailbox. Let Carol know if you need a name badge and she can have Michelle order you one. Also, please check in when at worship (speak with Marilyn Erickson) to see what might be needed. Please plan to attend the 11 a.m. service this Sunday for installation if you are able. Your names and photos will be in the bulletin.

I was invited to speak at the Faith Community Nurse Network of the Greater Twin Cities in January and spoke to 100 parish nurses and health ministers from throughout the cities about addiction and how faith communities can respond.

I am working on the 2019 Addiction and Faith Conference and ticket sales have begun. This year we have partnered with the Episcopal Church and anticipate at least 100 more attendees.

The Addiction Awareness Team is working with Drew Brooks of Faith Partners to redevelop the ministry that was begun when Sue Glusenkamp was here. Drew met with the team and they will be exploring new ways to do Addiction Awareness at TLC, including the possibility of developing a worshipping community. I met with Ambrosia Treatment and we are working to put together a 10 month lecture series around addiction that would include a worship experience so that could eventually lead into a new worship service at TLC.

Pastor Treat also stated that the Giving Kiosk is now in place in the Narthex. He distributed the following:

- pictures of new members for the directory
- a preliminary flyer for the Addiction and Faith Conference scheduled for Sept. 20-22, 2019
- a preliminary plan from the Ambrosia Treatment Center describing how the organization could work with TLC in presenting a series of monthly discussions on substance abuse.

Old Business:

- Discussion regarding CAT survey: next steps. Jeanine Brown stated that the Strategic Planning Team plans to have a holistic review of the results, identifying key concepts and then deciding which issues to address. The team may find it needs to gather more information before making both short term and long term recommendations.
- Pastoral Leadership Team Listening Sessions Updates. John Lindell explained the change in the initial proposed schedule to allow better participation and that the goal is to gather data. He expects a large turnout on the 17th. No staff and neither pastor will be present. Discussion followed: Attendees should be asked to sign-in. The focus is on the pastoral leadership proposal. If discussion is off topic, facilitator can ask that the concern be written on cards which will be provided. Evan Collins will facilitate on Feb. 17; John Lindell and Jeanine Brown will facilitate on Feb. 20 and 24. Council members volunteered for various task related to the various sessions.

New Business

- PLT Listening Session Staffing Needs: see Pastoral Leadership Team Listening Sessions Updates.
- Comment Box: It was suggested that it might be named a Positivity/Comment Box. Motion by Allison Schroeder with second by Sandy Stooke to approve the idea of a Comment Box.
- Pastors' Housing Allowance: Council approved that \$55,000 of Pastor Ed's 2019 salary be designated as housing allowance and that \$50,000 of Pastor Arthur's 2019 salary be designated as housing allowance.

Next Meeting Date: March 12 2019—6 p.m dinner, 6:30 p.m. meeting

Devotions: Laurel Riippa

Meal: Jerry Olson

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

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Laurel Riippa with second by Patti Weichselbaum. Meeting adjourned ab 8:15 p.m.