

TLC Church Council Meeting March 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

Guest: Bob Hetlinger

Visitors: LoriAnn Gillick, Boby Hill, Hal Hill, Gaylen Pirri, Marilyn Rundberg

Devotions: Pastor Arthur, Allison Lindman

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Evan Collins at 6:39 p.m.

TLC Membership Committee (Strategic Plan): To increase communication between those who are part of the Strategic Plan and the Council, Evan Collins is inviting team leaders to present at the meetings. Bob Hetlinger reported that the membership committee is working toward a strategy to invite people to visit and become members. He highlighted five areas:

- New member survey will be conducted, focusing on members who have joined in the last three years, using phone and perhaps some face-to-face interviews.
- The Neighborhood Welcome Team will be using Mission Insight which will allow TLC to get information about people in our community.
- A New Welcome Brochure (8x11 trifold) will be part of a welcome packet. A packet for visitors is being developed. The team is looking for welcomers who will be trained.
- There is a new emphasis on mentoring new members, beginning with those who joined in January.
- A welcome lunch is being planned for May 5 for ushers and welcomers.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Patti Weichselbaum with second by Zac Schnedler to approve agenda with one addition under Old Business related to the Communications Box. Motion carried and approved.

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

Review and approval of February Financial Report: Jerry Olson

- General Fund receipts for February totaled \$66,912. Total disbursements totaled \$65, 929. Overall there is an operating deficit for 2019 of \$7,670.
- Capital campaign receipts in February totaled \$12,711. Expenditures totaled \$22, 035. There is a surplus to date of \$35,356.

Motion by Sandy Stooke with second by Patti Weichselbaum to approve the financial report. Motion carried and approved.

Pastor Arthur suggested it would be helpful for the Journey with Jesus Campaign Committee to meet. Jerry Olson will discuss a possible meeting with Dick Haugen.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ed Treat

First, thank you to this church council. The demands on your time have been heavy and you have responded in the most amazing ways. This has been by far the most trying time in all my years of ministry and if it were not for your commitment to making this a healthy, vital congregation I would not have endured. You have been my inspiration. At each turn I watch you deliberate and work hard to think things through and do all the right things. It is an honor to serve the Lord with you.

I must also mention the leadership of our president, Evan. Hasn't he been outstanding through this first month of leadership? And just think, he only has four more years to go.

Along with that thank you, I must again thank you, Pastor Arthur, for keeping me propped up through all this. He keeps pulling arrows out of me and telling me, "You're fine, quit complaining." Thank you for the enormous role you play in my life and at this church and for being such a great source of strength and support for me and so many others.

Thank you also to all of you who attended the Synod training March 23. I heard good things. Your attendance there did not go unnoticed. Here is an email I got from our Thrivent rep. How was the training?

We continue work with the pastoral leadership transition team and continue to develop the vision as we work through the questions and concerns gathered this last month. I have been present for many of the meetings, but this group led by John Lindell is doing all the heavy lifting. Again, this church is so blessed with real leaders.

The consultants working with the congregation around recent issues raised has provided us with a report of their impressions and some recommendations going forward. We will be reviewing those tonight. Their recommendation is to also provide a letter to the congregation. Since this has all become so public the congregation needs to be apprised of where things are to this point. Thank you to Beth Mercer and Evan for producing this letter.

Strategic planning continues and with the leadership of Jeanine Brown they are working to incorporate what was 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. We are narrowing our focus on youth and family with an emphasis on developing opportunities to connect with ELC families. Our mission and outreach focus will be on Liberia and addiction along with the many other ministries we continue to provide.

Stephen ministers' training continues and we expect to commission 10 ministers on Sunday, May 19.

Kudos to the TLC Staff and especially Brad Nolte who in anticipation of the storm last weekend spent countless hours pre-recording a full worship service to use in the event of a closure. Our online community continues to grow. Brad, Rob, Arthur, and Karen Daniels went the extra mile this last week and did all the work necessary to provide for TLC in case the church would be closed. We have a great, talented and committed staff.

My work on the next Addiction and Faith Conference continues. We are in partnership with the Episcopalian Church this time and expect to increase our attendance by 100 this year.

Lent is underway and our Lenten services will focus on the Sermon on the Mount.

Renee Jefferson is providing a Bible Study on the topic and we have a great variety of preachers throughout the season.

Ben Cherland and Arthur have Lenten Mentoring under way every Wednesday night. Our youth are matched up with adults to share faith conversations.

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 Brooks will be working with the team to re-develop the ministry over the next year. The team is also exploring new ways to do Addiction Awareness at TLC, including the possibility of developing a worshipping community including a 12-month lecture series intended to draw youth and families to learn about the many forms addiction takes and how we as a society can combat it.

In light of recent concerns about my whereabouts, I will say I am often in and out of the office throughout the week and my schedule has been and always will be notoriously unpredictable. My schedule is normally to be in the office Monday through Thursday. Sometimes meetings scheduled at night means I arrive a little later in the morning. My day off is Friday unless there is something urgent needed. Saturday I spend writing sermons or catching up on emails, writing, reading, presiding at weddings, or doing any visitations I didn't get to during the week. I am and always have been accessible 24/7 by phone. I always have my phone with me, even when sleeping and if I don't answer I will respond almost immediately. I am also very accessible through text and email. I am always on duty as your pastor.

However, over the next two weeks, I will be traveling and using some vacation time. From March 14 to the 19th I will be serving as a chaperone for the Mound Westonka High School Band touring Nashville and Memphis (while on the bus I do plan to work). Then, from March 22 to the 29th, I will be taking my family to Florida for Spring Break in honor of my last child to graduate from high school. During that time I plan to avoid work if possible. April 1 and 2 I will be in Washington, D.C. promoting the Addiction and Faith Conference. I foresee no other absences from TLC until my daughter's wedding in July.

Old Business:

- Discussion regarding Comment Box. Pastor Arthur suggested that to improve feedback loop for council, the council secretary would receive all comments and bring them to council attention as needed or sent to staff. Discussion included statement that all comments should go to council and that a running list should be kept. Pastor Arthur moved with second by Patti Weichselbaum that the Communications Team will manage set-up of the communication box, naming it, and publicizing it and the Council secretary will pick up and distribute all comments received in the Communications Box. Motion approved and carried.

- CAT Survey Results Next Steps Discussion. Lengthy discussion focusing on Consultation Report from Jerry Wahl and Mary Halvorson as well as the CAT Assessment.

Laurel Riippa noted that the report from Pastor Wahl stated the Concerned Member's Group met with the Church Council; she noted that in fact the group met with the Executive Committee of the Church Council. The question was also raised as to whether the report represents the Synod's position. Evan Collins stated he believes the Synod approves of the report.

Discussion on the CAT Assessment centered on the strong emphasis by respondents on attracting families with children and youth to TLC. Questions included what can we do structurally; what is the role of the church council, do we need to communicate better, could we send out a letter once a quarter to membership, how does this fit with models of leadership. Current efforts such as new connections with the ELC and new small groups centered on young families were also discussed.

- PLT Listening Session Review: Evan Collins thanked the council members for being present at the Listening Sessions and the meetings which followed.

New Business:

- Division of questions for council consideration: In the absence of John Lindell and Jeanine Brown, Pastor Arthur shared a timeline for answering the questions raised at the listening sessions. Volunteers for representatives from the council are Evan Collins, Laurel Riippa and Patti Weichselbaum. The Pastoral Leadership Team and the Council Reps will work on drafts of the report to the congregation between now and March 26 and will present their work to the full council on March 26, 7 p.m. A congregational meeting to hear the report is scheduled for March 31.
- Letter to the congregation: At the recommendation of the Synod consultants, Beth Mercer and Evan Collins have written a letter regarding issues raised by the Concerned Members Group which will be sent to the congregation.
- Recovery Ministry on Sundays: Discussion tabled until May. It was noted that there is funding and support to develop a worshipping community. Two individuals will be sent for training.
- Pastor Stephanie Memorial Art Work (Racial Justice Team). Jerry Olson showed the Council two paintings which are meant to make our church space more comfortable to diverse groups—“The Global Human Family” painted by R. Padre Johnson and donated to TLC and the Norman Rockwell painting “The Golden Rule” purchased by the Racial Justice Team. Jerry Olson noted that the staff and the Welcoming Diversity Team is supportive. The location is still to be determined. Laurel Riippa moved with second by Sandy Stooke to approve hanging the paintings with a plaque denoting that they are hung in loving memory of Pastor Stephanie.

Next Regular Meeting Date: April 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. meeting

Devotions: Jerry Olson

Meal: Evan Collins

Closing Prayer: Laurel Riippa led the council in a closing prayer.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Patti Weichselbaum with second by Zac Schnedler. Motion carried and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

NOTE: Special Council meeting Tuesday March 26, 7 pm.