

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council

May 12, 2009 Minutes

## Members present:

Lindsay Anderson	President	Laurie Sperber	Youth Ministries
Dan Thieme	Vice President	Greg Schroedl	Evangelism
Chuck Pietka	Treasurer	Lyle Snyder	Ex Officio, Past President
John Donaldson	Secretary		
Gary Schill	Property		
Mark Simon	Management	Staff	Kathy Fisher
Althea Esterley	Cong. Life	Pastor	Sue Wanwig
James Park	Worship & Music		
Lowell Williams	Christ. Ed		
Jamie Park	Worship and Music		

Absent; Leslie Byrnes Stewardship, Rick Morck, Social Concerns

President Lindsay Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## Devotions

A presentation of "Life in the Present", by Dr. Ernest Holms, was led by Mark Simon.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 14 council meeting were approved as modified by council.

## Pastor's Report

Pastor Wanwig reported that the orientation for assisting ministers went well. We will be welcoming into membership Sharon and Vince Augenstein and Angela Bronson, all of whom have already become active in HTLC endeavors. Sue noted the members willing to read in foreign language for our Pentecost service. She is still looking for a few European language readers. Also noted, our choir will be the visiting choir at St. James Cathedral on May 30, and our organist, David Locke, will participate in a concert at St. Mark's Cathedral the following day. As one of our members was unable to attend the synod convention as previously planned, Sue recommended that the council accept Linda Stoullil as substitute. A motion was made to that effect, seconded and was subsequently passed unanimously.

Pastor Sue noted that sometimes there was too much detail in the council minutes, sometimes lacking in sensitivity. Our goal, it was agreed, should be transparency with discretion. It was resolved that the council should more diligently review and edit the minutes prior to acceptance.

## Transition to New Pastor

President Lindsay Anderson reported that Pastor Deanna Wildermuth has formally accepted our offer.

Jamie Park suggested that a small team (2 or 3 members) assist Pastor Wildermuth regarding the "nuts and bolts" of the transition and provide general information on HTLC i.e., office procedures, computers.

A date for formal installation of Pastor Wildermuth has yet to be determined.

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### **May 17 Congregational Meeting**

Dan provided copies of the agenda proposed for the congregational meeting and changes required for the HTLC constitution and articles of incorporation. These materials are also to be distributed to the congregation (mailing) and copies made available at the May 17 meeting. The council agreed to Dan's proposal.

The slate of candidates proposed to fill outgoing council positions was presented. The list was approved for presentation to the congregation for vote at the May 17 meeting.

### **Resolution of Negligence Lawsuit Against HTLC**

This legal case resulted from an injury to a Vacation Bible School student that was caused accidentally by a young VBS counselor. An arbitration resulted in a small judgment against HTLC (under \$10,000), which our liability insurance will pay. Dan Thieme reported that HTLC's lawyer believes we were not negligent, but recommended that we not appeal the ruling due to the small size of the award. Kathy Fisher questioned future VBS activities in light of the arbitrator's ruling. It was agreed that VBS activities should continue as in the past, with all VBS counselors to be trained on safety, including "no horseplay." It was also noted that any future accidents should be brought to the attention of the Council President promptly. (In this case, the pastor was aware of the incident but the Council was not made aware until later.)

### **Mutual Ministry**

The mutual ministry committee brought 3 items to the council's attention:

- 1) What is the procedure for reimbursement for purchases benefiting HTLC? When are receipts required?
- 2) What policy should HTLC adopt regarding dogs on the property?
- 3) How can we best avoid HTLC calendar conflicts?

Regarding item 1, Chuck Pietka will provide information regarding the appropriate procedures.

With respect to item 2), dogs in church, after considerable discussion it was decided that animals could be in church under certain circumstances. A motion was made that the following procedure be observed:

No animals of any kind are allowed on church premises during Sunday services, or during any outside event such as weddings, funerals, etc., or other formal events. An exception applies for the annual Blessing of the Animals.

Animals of pastors or staff members may be permitted at other times under the following conditions: Permission must first be obtained in advance from the Executive Committee of the Council (the officers). The animal must be well behaved (i.e., no inappropriate behavior), supervised by the owner and confined to the owner's work area. Permission to have an animal on HTLC grounds can be revoked at any time by the council or by the Executive Committee.

The motion was seconded. During discussion it was agreed to amend the motion to exempt service animals from this resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Regarding schedule conflicts, it was decided that the office manager (Kirsten Olshausen) would maintain the church schedule. Those wishing to schedule an event should coordinate with the church office.

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Chuck Pietka noted that some mutual ministry inquiries, which are all handled in confidence, may imply wrongdoing. He suggested that the Mutual Ministry Committee might best direct such inquiries to the appropriate council member (committee).

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Finance Report**

Chuck reported that we finished the month "in the black", and that moving expenses for Pr. Wildermuth are not yet finalized but expected to be near estimates.

#### **Stewardship**

Letters to the congregation regarding the "New Pastor Fund" are in the mail.

#### **Property**

Gary announced that we now have a newly painted Fellowship Hall. Lots of thanks to Gary and Dian Schill for their work there! We have also hired a new cleaning service. Dian and Linda Magley are working on cleaning and improving the lighting at the bottom of the stairs leading into the Fellowship Hall.

#### **Christian Ed.**

Lowell reported that next year's curriculum has been ordered, and that VBS plans are essentially complete. We will be participating in the annual Mercer Island "Summer Celebration" parade again this year. Be there!

#### **Evangelism**

Reports that good progress has been made in getting people to sign up as neighborhood leaders and plans a September kickoff meeting.

#### **Worship and Music**

Jamie announced that our summer worship schedule, a single service at 9:00 AM, begins on June 21st. We are also looking into means for the purchase of the latest hymnals.

#### **Congregational Life**

Althea reported that the Mother-Daughter luncheon / fashion show was a big success, with around 120 attendees.

#### **Youth**

Laurie Sperber announced that this summer HTLC will help sponsor a young lady from our sister synod in Ethiopia. She is active in her home church as a choir leader and she loves to play guitar and keyboard. HTLC will have the opportunity of helping contribute to her expenses.

#### **Other Business**

The meeting adjourned 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Donaldson  
Secretary  
[inbdonal6206@comcast.net](mailto:inbdonal6206@comcast.net)