

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council

June 9, 2009 Minutes

## Members present:

Dan Thieme	President	Worship and Music	Jamie Park
Brendan Rorem	Vice President	Evangelism	Jeff Deuel
Chuck Pietka	Treasurer	Stewardship	Leslie Byrnes
John Donaldson	Secretary	Social Concerns	Mary Casady
Gary Schill	Property	Staff:	
Management	Tom Elzey		Pastor Deanna Wildermuth
Cong. Life	Lynn Tuttle		Pastor Sue Wanwig
Youth Ministries	Laurie Sperber		Kathy Fisher
Christian Ed.	Bridget Swanson		
Absent	Ex Officio, Past President, Lindsay Anderson		

President Dan Thieme called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## Devotions

The council was led in an opening prayer by Pastor Wildermuth.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

## Pastor's Report

Pastor Sue thanked everyone for their support and the many appreciative comments for her service as interim lead Pastor. Sue noted that there will be a second orientation for assisting ministers. She has written up notes ("a work in progress") and is coordinating with Leslie on the task. The notes will be distributed to assisting ministers soon. The Mercer Island Clergy Association seeks to make M.I. a more "green" community by urging environmental awareness and stewardship. There will be no tent city on M.I. for at least a year. Tent City likes M.I. and would like to return. They prefer short physical moves rather than large jumps over the area.

Pastor Wildermuth will try to visit all of the small group gatherings of HTLC, i.e. the book group, the bible studies etc. This will not be her normal pattern but is intended solely for familiarization. She noted that her housing allowance has to be addressed as required by the Federal Tax code. Pastor Deanna then distributed a question and answer sheet to the council, requesting council members' visions for HTLC in the coming months. She has asked for similar input from the staff.

## Compass Center Meal Coverage

Dan Thieme and Mary Casady reported that Holy Trinity may lose its opportunity to serve scheduled breakfasts at the Compass Center. Our present schedule is to serve breakfast on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Four to six people are required for a functional crew. Leslie Byrnes noted that the Ministry Fair has provided names of some potential volunteers. Jamie Park suggested that this was also an opportunity to get the confirmation classes involved directly in HTLC outreach. The ideal breakfast crew would be 6 to 8 volunteers, one of whom should be an experienced lead cook. A "mini-retreat" for volunteer orientation was proposed.

## Council Member Orientation

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Dan provided each council member with a copy of the HTLC constitution pertaining to the duties of officers (C11.01.01) and asked that each member become familiar with the portion describing their individual responsibilities. Each member was asked to identify one thing in their area of responsibility that they wish to focus upon during the coming year.

### **Council Retreat Planning**

An informal discussion regarding when to have a council retreat resulted in general agreement on the date of July 14th, from 5:30 till 9 p.m.

### **Pastor Deanna Installation Planning**

After considering the schedules of synod and HTLC participants, it has been determined that the formal installation service for Pastor Wildermuth will be held on September 27th at 3:00 PM.

### **Council Member Installation**

It was agreed that formal installation of all council members would take place during the 10:15 service on June 14th.

Several extraneous measures were then addressed.

Should the council meet in August? Yes.

Should we continue to publish the council minutes in the church bulletin? The council's intent was to keep the congregation fully informed on council activities. The requirement that council minutes be read by the council and submitted for approval at the next monthly meeting renders the minutes 6 weeks old when distributed in the bulletin. Chuck Pietka suggested, and volunteered to provide, an executive summary for immediate release in the bulletin following approval by the executive council. Complete minutes will no longer be published in the newsletter but will continue to be posted for the congregation to read on the church bulletin board and on the website.

Attendant to this discussion was consideration of distributing the church bulletin by e-mail to those members requesting e-copies. Potential problems with partial e-mail distribution might be that postal distribution rates could increase due to decreased volume, thereby eliminating any possible savings. Kathy Fisher will investigate the details of alternative distribution and also look into gathering HTLC member e-mail addresses.

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Finance Report**

Chuck reports that we have had a very good month, expenses are all under control, our new pastor campaign funding has been reasonably on track.

His investigation of using credit cards vis-à-vis "Simply Giving" is continuing.

Council President Thieme had previously requested that we consider two urgent business items. First a resolution pertaining to who should be authorized to communicate with the Bank of America on behalf of HTLC for business purposes. A motion was made that Dan Thieme, Brendan Rorem, Chuck Pietka, John Donaldson, Kirsten Olshausen, and Tom Elzey be authorized for such tasks. The motion was seconded and subsequently passed without dissent.

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Second, Dan had asked that the council formally decide who could sign HTLC checks. The council suggested that Dan Thieme, Brendan Rorem, Chuck Pietka, Lindsay Anderson, Tom Elzey and John Donaldson be authorized to sign HTLC checks . A motion was made to that effect, seconded and was passed without dissent.

### **Stewardship**

Leslie provided an overview of the stewardship committee meeting for the council (see yellow page attached to office copy of these minutes). Results from the Spring Ministry Fair were so encouraging that a Fall Ministry Fair is being planned. "The goal is to educate and garner support for all possible volunteer areas."

### **Congregational Life**

Lynn reported that her committee has help, both veteran and new. She will be adding to her committee as there is a great deal of planned activities which they are excited to pursue.

### **Youth**

Jackie King and Doris James have met with the artist charged with making our new processional cross. The artist has the original drawings and will provide us with a close reproduction of the original initially provided by Herm Kelsch in memory of Gerry Kelsch. Three plaques will be attached to the cross, one for Ron James, another for H. & G. Kelsch and one for the confirmation class, all in recognition of financial contributions.

"Hamoni": a drive to collect loose change in support of Hamomi ("Harmony"), a Kenyan home and school for orphaned or destitute children in Nairobi. Our youth's goal for HTLC is to collect \$600, which will feed 100 children for one month.

A car wash to raise money for the New Orleans mission trip is scheduled for June 20th at the M.I. QFC.

### **Christian Ed.**

Bridget Swanson announced that there is now a Library Committee, with Edith Cropp as chairperson, which will undertake to overhaul the library and the check-out system. Bridget is also looking into the possibility of a Rally Sunday picnic in Luther Burbank park. The M.I. Summer Celebration parade on July 11<sup>th</sup> has the theme "Around the World" and HTLC will BE THERE!

### **Property**

Gary reports that the parking lots will be cleaned and restriped. A big thank you to Otto Steffin and Norm Craig for their work in restoring the tiles on the atrium floor. The old bathrooms at the rear of the chapel have been converted to storage space.

### **Evangelism**

Jeff Deuel will meet with Greg Schroedl to assure continuity in evangelism programs. He suggests that we place an add in the MI Reporter announcing Pr. Wildermuths installation date. He will also try to update the directory in the coming year. There was some discussion regarding an updated directory. We would like to continue with the present membership list for a while in anticipation of some former members returning, but we have synod reporting requirements that may preclude extensive delays in membership reporting. Details will be worked out to meet requirements.

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Dan Thieme made a motion that we allocate up to \$500 for vinyl banners for the new posts at the NE corner of the upper parking lot. This was seconded and approved without dissent.

### **Social Concerns**

Mary Casady will attempt to get the confirmation classes involved in social concerns, possibly including an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student on the committee.

HTLC's support of El Milagro may continue for another year as the village is "not where AGROS wanted it to be".

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Donaldson  
Secretary  
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