

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
April 14, 2009 Council Meeting minutes**

Members present:

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

President Lindsay Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Devotions were led by Dan Thieme.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 10 council meeting were approved as modified by council.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Wanwig was gratified by attendance at the Lenten Wednesday evening and Good Friday services, and noted that it was a welcome sight to see some old familiar faces at the Easter services.

With respect to the church library, Sue noted that it was good to see Edith Cropp back working in the library. Edith will try to continue helping there once a week. Furthermore, Women's bible study is off to a good start, and the participation at our church by El Camino de Emaus on March 29 was well received. Sue represented the Lutheran Church at the annual interment of the remains of indigents.

During the upcoming meeting of the Maritime Ministries (Apr. 25-26) Pr. Wanwig will help with transportation in addition to her participation.

At the synod convention, participants will be provided with a booklet outlining the histories, strengths and statistics of the congregations in our synod. When interviewing HTLC personnel for this book, the editors were impressed with the strengths and outreach of our church.

Chuck Pietka asked what the council should be considering during our transition to a new pastor. Sue replied that she would like to continue with visitations and continue in "the rotation". Lyle added that our prospective pastor, Deanna Wildermuth, has mentioned that she would appreciate Sue's help.

Speaking of "rotation", Pr. Iver Haugen will preside at a service this coming month.

Call Committee Update

Lyle Snyder reported on the next steps in the call process. The Wildermuth family has yet to find a home here in Seattle and to arrange for moving. They are still looking.

Synod paperwork still has to be completed. Chuck Pietka is helping coordinate details with the Wildermuths.

Stewardship

Leslie passed around copies of the Stewardship Committee minutes and her report agenda. Discussion centered around the upcoming Ministry Fair, April 26. Leslie will be working with Kirsten Olshausen to assure that the heads of the various committees have representatives manning their respective tables during the event.

Leslie reported favorable responses from our “friendly call” program to inform the congregation of the meet and greet functions and the attendant gathering of congregational information. She feels that a similar effort may be productive to call broad attention to the arrival of our new pastor.

A “New Pastor” contribution campaign letter will go out after the upcoming newsletter. New Pastor monetary donations will have to be identified as such.

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting must be scheduled (for May 17) to elect new council members and to update the HTLC constitution. It was decided to hold the meeting between services from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. We need biographies of candidates to be circulated (website and newsletter) to the membership by 1 May.

Dan Thieme brought up a few “housekeeping” items that had to be addressed in keeping with the constitution. First, amendments to the “2007 Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations” had to be made, and second, the Articles of Amendment of HTLC required formal adoption. Dan then made a motion that the council propose to the congregation that the changes to the model constitution be adopted. The motion was seconded. Lyle Snyder commented that the congregation be informed that the suggested changes came from the Synod and not from the council. This was agreed to. The motion then passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Dan then moved that the council recommend to the congregation that the proposed articles of amendment be adopted. The motion was seconded and then passed without dissent.

Committee Updates

Property

Gary has been busy and reports that our 1954 water heater has been replaced with a new one” not guaranteed to last that long”. He has also unhooked the water to the bathrooms at the back of the chapel as they are now, and will be in the future, used as store rooms. A new janitorial service has been hired and will start on the first of the month. There will be no increase in cost.

Social Concerns

Rick Morck updated the financial situation with our support of El Milagro, which is in its last year. We are slightly behind in our usual contributions, so Rick will solicit previous contributors while working in concert with other HTLC fundraising.

A second trip to El Milagro is being negotiated with AGROS. We have an abundance of new and former trip members wanting to go and would like to have a second visit. Rick is working with AGROS and hopes to have their input and a trip plan by our next meeting.

Rick asks, “What is our next outreach plan?” Initial suggestions included local as well as foreign possibilities.

Evangelism

Greg Schroedl provided an outline of HTLC Neighborhood Clusters, what they are, what they do, and what the readers do. Due to a computer problem, his full presentation had to be postponed until the next council meeting, although it will be shown during the ministry fair. Group activities will include phone trees, address trees and one social event per year.

Mutual Ministry Committee

Dian Schill reported that the Mutual Ministry Committee had discussed having the terms of office changed from 2 years to 3 years. No changes would be required of the Model Constitution to implement such a change. The pros and cons of such a change were discussed. It was decided to maintain the status quo for at least the present year.

Worship and Music

Jamie Park introduced a proposal regarding compensation for the choir section leaders. After a brief discussion a motion was made to raise the section leaders' stipend to the recommended amount and that the raise be retroactive to 1 January. The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

Congregational Life

Althea will be planning a welcome fete for the new pastor and her family as soon as dates are known.

165 notes announcing the Mother-Daughter luncheon are being mailed. The Mother-Daughter function has been neglected these past few years, and its resumption is a welcome addition to our HTLC functions.

Finance

Chuck Pietka outlined our financial condition. Although we had a "pretty good" March we need to be sensitive to giving, which is running behind our budgeted amount by about \$10,000.

The question of giving by credit card was brought up. Chuck will look into the details of that process but cautioned that it might conflict, and not be as cost free as the "Simply Giving" program presently in place.

The pastoral call committee expenses are overrun by about \$1,000. Pastoral moving expenses are yet to come.

Youth and Christian Education

Kathy reports that Women's Bible study is off to a good start on the 1st Tuesday and 2nd Saturday. The Sunday School curriculum for next year has been ordered. The confirmation class will be visiting Herzl-Ner Tamid synagogue on Mercer Island to hear Rabbi Rosenbaum. The confirmation class has undertaken the task of replacing the processional cross stolen in a break-in last summer and have made significant progress in finding the funds, i.e., income from the Easter breakfast and an allocation from the Ron James memorial fund.

Vacation Bible School is all set to take off on Aug. 17. On July 2 we will take part in Summer Celebration Parade. A contest among our youth will decide the T-shirt design. Kathy reported that we raised \$3,000 at the MS walk.

Other Business

Lindsay provided details of disbursements from the Endowment Fund amounting to \$5,600. They included: a tuition grant to Kelsey Smith at Wartburg Seminary, funds to refurbish the women's rest room, grants to The Grunewald Guild, Camp Lutherwood, Emergency Feeding and our music program.

The meeting adjourned 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Donaldson
Secretary
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