

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Minutes for 5/10/2011**

Members Present:

Brendan Rorem, President
Tim Parker, Vice President
Karin Swenson-Moore, Secretary
Dean Pollock, Treasurer
Tom Elzey, Management
Gary Schill, Property
Laurie Sperber, Youth
Bridget Swanson, Christian Education
Dan Thieme, Former President
Pastor Deanna Wildermuth, Sr. Pastor, Ex Officio

Members Absent:

Leslie Byrnes, Stewardship
Mary Casady, Social Concerns
Jeff Deuel, Evangelism
Jackie King, Worship and Music
Lynn Tuttle, Congregational Life
Pastor Sue Wanwig, Ex Officio

Staff Present:

Kathy Fisher, Director, Youth and Family Ministry

1. Call to Order

President Brendan Rorem called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

2. Devotions

Pastor Wildermuth led devotions/prayer.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Council approved the minutes of the April 12, 2011 meetings with no corrections.

4. Pastors' and Staff Reports

Kathy Fisher's report:

- Easter went well except for the rain.
- Signs have been ordered to advertise Summer Bible Camp.
- 18 kids and 4 adults will be at Holden Village in May.
- Kathy will take pictures of the 2012 high school seniors so the blanket makers can put names and faces together as they pray over the blankets at their May gathering. All blankets for the Class of 2011 are complete and will be presented on Sunday, June 5.
- Letters were sent to confirmation families describing programming options prior to a discussion on June 5 at noon.
- Letters will be sent to eligible families regarding the 2012 Youth Gathering trip to New Orleans. Kathy will lead a meeting to determine interest and discuss fundraising on June 12.

- Kathy picked a few Mercer Island summer events in July and August to target for socializing for HTLC young adults. She will advertise and send cards to the target members.
- The Mission@Home sign up sheets are out and projects being arranged for the week of June 25. One evening event will be available. Brendan suggested Kathy inform us regarding which days need most help. We will culminate with a potluck church picnic on Thursday, June 30 at the Lid Park. Kathy will make sure maps are available since not everyone knows where to go.

Pastor Deanna Wildermuth's report:

- The next newsletter is the June/July issue and the article deadline is May 15.
- The computer network upgrades are moving forward, including all staff on the new server, networking to the copier, etc.
- Keith Wildermuth reported to the Management Committee regarding computer issues. He will help get old equipment recycled. He next plans to start updating the website.
- Thanks to the Schills for their leadership on the Fellowship Hall update. Keith Wildermuth will wax the tile due to experience with this work.
- Bets is doing well in the office but has much to learn. Any substantive comments regarding publications should be provided to Pastor Wildermuth. Laurie Sperber asked why we use Publisher. Response was that it's what we have for now.
- Our new bookkeeper, Cindy Gebhart, will be in the office on Fridays so checks can be signed as necessary over the weekend. Checks will not be available any other time. Her e-mail is financial@htlcmi.org. Dean Pollock is working on credit card and bank changes.
- Kirsten's transition is complete, but all need to be gentle as we work through change.
- Some discussion occurred regarding worship styles experienced in other congregations.

5. May 22 Semi-Annual Meeting

- A letter will be mailed to the congregation this week.
- The agenda will include review of the congregational covenant and Council elections.
- The Council needs to be thinking about transitions from old to new members.
- The list of nominees will be circulated to the Council prior to the meeting. All nominees should be at the meeting.
- We will have an old/new Council event over the summer.

6. Committee Updates

- **Dean Pollock, Treasurer**, reported:
 - The April financial reports showed revenue of \$45,588 (\$38,929 budget) and expenses \$41,697 (\$40,751 budget) generating a positive budget variance of \$3,891.
 - YTD income is positive to budget by \$6,817 with total expenses below budget by \$5,051 resulting in positive YTD variance of \$11,868.
 - The Cash balance as of April was \$391,650.
 - Office expenses were over budget by \$1,049, which should correct itself during the year.
 - The Youth budget for April shows a negative variance of \$2,434 caused by Holden trip expenses paid with participant payments still to be received. The variance should wash out in coming months.
 - The ETC income for April exceeded budget based on two months rent being received. This will even out next month.

- A motion was made, seconded and approved without dissent to approve the April financial report as presented.
- **Gary Schill, Property**, noted:
 - The downstairs remodel continues with both bathrooms.
 - We have two walls to repaint in the Fellowship Hall. The budget is fine as the asbestos removal cost less than expected.
 - The downstairs post repair will be completed this week and includes painting the window trim and soffit.
 - Brendan reported we have solicited contractor bids for steeple scraping, sanding, painting, inspection and repair. While the cherry picker lift is here, we'll get some other high/roof maintenance done such as light bulb replacement.
 - A motion was made, seconded and passed without dissent to empower the Property Committee to spend up to \$3000 from the Special Reserve Capital Improvement fund to hire a general contractor for this project.
- **Tom Elzey, Management**, said:
 - Keith Wildermuth did a great job reporting on technology to the committee. Budget for upgrades to the church technology is in the planning stages.
 - The Strategic Planning task force found a lot of common themes in their data gathering. A comprehensive proposal and recommendations will be presented to the Council for discussion and approval by mid-summer, likely at the transition meeting to allow transitioning members to participate.
- **Laurie Sperber, Youth**, stated:
 - 6 students are signed up for the Urban Plunge mission trip. A chaperone is needed.
 - The desired fundraising for the 2012 Youth Gathering is a joint Youth/Social Concerns auction on September 17, with a funds goal of \$60,000. Alternatively, fundraising would include an envelope drive, the tea bag mailing, sale of art created by the youth, and a babysitting night. Families of Youth Gathering attendees will be required to contribute a minimum number of hours to the fundraising efforts. The goal is to complete fund raising in 2011.
 - The high school youth need to raise \$600 from latte cart sales to meet their Hamomi commitment.
 - The Committee discussed various young adult ministry possibilities, including resurrecting Dinners for 8 (multi-generational) and a Facebook group.
- **Bridget Swanson, Christian Education**, reported:
 - The joint Worship and Music/Christian Education meeting on May 4 was great.
 - The committees plan to run both Sunday School and the late service concurrently starting at 10 am starting in the fall.
 - Sunday School students will start the hour in church with the opening hymn and the children's message, then depart for their classes. They will rejoin their families in church at Communion. Sunday School music/birthdays/etc. will be once a month with no separate classroom time, allowing more time for singing and non-classroom activities.
 - The 9-10 am slot on Sunday mornings will offer fellowship and adult education, with supervised activities provided for children.
 - Children's choir will rehearse separately from Sunday School.
 - This change will work best with more adult team teachers for every class.
 - A Teacher Information Day is planned for June 12. It was noted that this is a test and adjustments are likely.

- **Pastor Deanna Wildermuth, representing Worship and Music,** stated:
 - The May 4 joint meeting wrapped up two years of conversation by both committees.
 - The committee plans some facility adjustments in the chapel to improve use of space, including moving the altar forward and removing the small organ, which is rented.
 - The 8 am service will continue to be in the chapel as a more traditional service.
 - The 10 am service will include a variety of music styles, even within a particular service.
 - The band will provide worship leadership on a two weeks on/two weeks off schedule.
 - We will have a Lutheran service regardless of music style.
 - Dean suggested the Council have talking points to help with questions. Dan suggested introducing the plan at an upcoming Sunday morning Adult Forum, for congregation discussion and questions. June 5 is the likely date.

7. Closing Prayer

8. Adjournment

President Rorem adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Swenson-Moore, HTLC Council Secretary