

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council

May 11th, 2010

Members Present:

Dan T, President
John D, Secretary
Chuck P, Finance
Laurie S, Youth Ministry
Gary S, Property
Jamie P, Worship and Music
Mary C, Social Concerns
Tom E, Management
Bridget S, Christian Ed
Jeff D, Evangelism
Leslie B, Stewardship
Pastor Deanna Wildermuth, Sr. Pastor, Ex Officio
Pastor Sue Wanwig, Visitation Pastor, Ex Officio

Staff Present:

Kathy Fisher, Director, Youth & Family Ministry

Members Absent:

Brendan R, Vice President
Lindsay A, Ex Officio
Mary C, Social Concerns

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President T at 7:07 PM.

Devotions

Laurie S presented a devotional reading from John.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April council meeting were approved with one correction regarding the location of a water leak, which was in the furnace room, not the kitchen.

Pastors' and Staff Reports

Pastor Wildermuth reported that she recently participated in a "Festival of Preaching", attending 3 to 4 services per day and preaching every day. The Pastor also indicated that she interviewed a Seattle University student as a candidate for a possible position as unpaid pastoral intern. Pastor Deanna will consider this as an option.

Business in the church office may be less efficient during the week of June 7. The office will be staffed by volunteers as the office staff spends the week purging the archives of unnecessary files and generally cleans house to improve efficiency.

Pastor Deanna is nominating our congregation to participate in a "Vibrant Congregation"-Project. The 3-year initiative is funded by The Lilly Endowment and is associated with a Lutheran seminary course. Pastor Deanna also is writing an article for a new book by Augsburg Fortress Publishing concerning baptismal considerations for persons with special needs.

Pastor Sue continues with her visitations in addition to having served a few other congregations with unforeseen pastoral vacancies.

Kathy Fisher, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, reported that she is soliciting interest in an "adult" trip to Holden Village in September. The Mercer Island Bacculaureate service will be held

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at Holy Trinity on June 6. She also indicated that she will not be present the remaining Sundays in May as she has two HTLC trips to Holden and a holiday weekend planned.

BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

Chuck P, Treasurer, urged our continued support of the Emergency Feeding Program as donations to that fund had been "fading" lately. He also reported that giving was "at budget" in April, but that the year-to-date deficit is still about \$10,000. Furthermore, a new refrigerator and freezer for the Fellowship Hall kitchen were purchased, using the last of the funds accumulated for kitchen maintenance and improvement by the Rotary Cooks. This purchase had been authorized at the last council meeting because the existing equipment is near the end of its useful life.

Giving for May is on track.

The detailed treasurer's report is attached to the office copy of this report.

Child Safety Task Force Report

Bridget S presented the procedure proposed by the task force, which has been in work since January. Bridget was careful to emphasize that there were NO incidents at HTLC to trigger this effort. The procedures are to minimize the potential for any such incidents, and such procedures generally are required by insurance companies. While the complete recommendations presented may be seen on the office copy of this report, highlights include:

- Enhanced screening of staff and volunteers working with the youth of HTLC, including a six-month waiting period before a new member could volunteer to work with youth.
- Enhanced training of staff, volunteers and church leadership in the proper procedure for responding to and reporting alleged incidents of possible child abuse.
- Enhanced supervision of youth, including adult/child ratio, emergency procedures, toilet break procedures and adult supervision.
- Rules regarding rooms used for youth instruction (including the nursery) and use of video / photographs of HTLC children.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding interns, among them the screening of staff being extended to volunteers and the timely notification of parents. Bridget noted that Christian Education would be responsible for educating those working with children to insure that everyone would be familiar with the procedures. To be successful, the procedures rely on the staff being well-trained and available to act as proscribed.

A motion was made to accept the procedures as amended. The motion was seconded and subsequently passed subject to final approval of the amended document by e-mail from council members.

In a continuing discussion of HTLC security, a motion was made to have the church locks all re-keyed and to have the office staff track the keys. The motion was tabled until Gary S could obtain bids.

Strategic Planning Taskforce Report

President T reported that the members of the strategic planning task force had completed their first meeting recently and will provide a report to the council soon.

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Nominating Committee Report

President T also reported that the Nominating Committee was still looking for a few good people and requested ideas for nominations for open positions (Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Music and Worship and Youth Ministries).

Preparation for May 23 Mid-Year Meeting

A draft agenda for the upcoming congregational meeting was provided to the council for consideration. Laurie S agreed to do the devotions, Dan accepted the responsibility of arranging for the PA system. It was also requested that Dan provide an introduction to the presentation of the proposed child safety procedures.

A motion was made to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and subsequently passed without dissent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Management, Social Concerns, Youth

No report.

Stewardship

Leslie B, Stewardship, reported on meetings with Pastor Wildermuth and separately with the Endowment Fund. Leslie also reported on how the committee is communicating with members.

Evangelism

Jeff D, Evangelism, reported that the "Rummage Sale" was a success and that the committee is considering when it might do it again. The event raised about \$2,700, which will be split between HTLC and MI Youth & Family Services. Jeff also reported that the first Cluster Group dinner has been scheduled. The Committee will meet in early June.

Congregational Life

Lynn T, Congregational Life, indicated that the Mother-Daughter program was successful, with 142 participants, and that receipts exceeded the expenses because of generous donations. The amount of planning and work accomplished by the organizers was noted with much appreciation. She indicated that the committee will focus on supporting the Operatoberfest rather than a Fall Festival. The Rally Sunday activities may be expanded to include all members.

Worship and Music

Jamie P, Worship and Music, reported that a second order of 33 new hymnals has been placed and that they are expected soon. They will be used for the choir loft and some pews. The goal is for 60 more hymnals, which will be acquired as donations are received. A musical celebration will be incorporated in the service on June 13 and the summer worship schedule will begin on June 20 (one service at 9 am).

Christian Education

Bridget discussed plans for the Christian Education Committee to work with the Evangelism Committee for participation in the Summer Celebration on Mercer Island. Bridget also indicated that the Christian Education Committee has considered options for the Sunday School hour and concluded that the present schedule seems to work best for now, but that some planning is being considered that would allow the children to attend a separate program after attending the first part of the 10:15 service (in addition to Sunday Church School).

Property

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Gary S, Property, reported that the planning regarding the roof repairs continues. It was noted that Norm C and Otto S had worked a number of days recently to steam clean and reseal the tile floor in the Atrium and were due a thank you from everyone.

Thank you to departing officers/council members

Dan T noted that the meeting was the last for a number of council members and thanked the departing members for their service.

ADJOURNMENT: meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
John D, Outgoing Secretary
Karin S-M, Secretary