

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Lansdale, PA  
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes– February 12, 2023

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on February 12, 2023 in Hyson Hall following the 8:30 a.m. service. The meeting was also held simultaneously via virtual meeting platform, Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Karen Bergey, President, with 147 in attendance in Hyson Hall and 10 on Zoom. Pastor Fowler gave the opening prayer.

Karen Bergey welcomed everyone noting theme of meeting as “Better Together”. She explained the voting system to be used will be to ask for a show of hands for those voting no and for those abstaining, with the balance of votes then to be considered as Yes. A motion was made by Sandy Cottrell, seconded by Joe Devlin, and passed to approve the agenda as presented. A motion was made by Bob Bartholomew and seconded by Shirley Bastian, and passed to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2022 Annual Congregation Meeting.

Jamie Price, Council Treasurer, presented the 2022 financial review. She noted offerings for 2022 were over one million dollars. A Property Plan needs for 2023 was shown and Denny Smith thanked for his assistance in preparing it. Final results from 2022 showed total income of \$1,468,429 vs total expenses of \$1,381,021, and a \$77,898 loss in the Thrivent Mutual Fund, ending with a net surplus of \$9,510.

Jamie Price then presented the 2023 Ministry Plan. Income is projected to be \$1,570,965 and expenses projected to be \$1,574,965, with a \$4,000 gain in the Thrivent Mutual Fund, ending with a 0 balanced budget. She noted that the Heilemann Trust will provide \$154,085 income in 2023. Questions were responded to, including: reason for FEAST income reduction (projecting a more conservative income from participants); how do pledges compare with last year (pledging less but amount of giving more (Bill Graeff from Generosity Committee provided some detailed numbers); amount of benevolence giving comparisons between 2022 and 2023 (increase for 2023 based on 8.2% of increased projected income); and explain \$35,000 left over from loan forgiveness (Jamie explained how PPP Loan Forgiveness system worked with \$117,810 of total forgiveness of \$153,219 used in 2022).

Highlight: A motion was made by Bob Bartholomew and seconded by Bill Shimer to approve the 2023 Ministry Plan as presented as a balanced budget – motion passed with 0 no and 2 abstain votes.

Cindy Weiss spoke for the Nomination Committee. She introduced and reviewed the background of the three new Council candidates for two-year terms – David Freudig, William Shimer and Michael Voicheck, and Karen Bergey, who is running for an additional one-year term.. Since there were no questions:

Highlight: A motion was made by Rodger Brown and seconded by Sandy Cottrell to approve the following slate: Karen Bergey (incumbent), David Freudig, William Shimer, and Michael Voicheck. - motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Fowler gave the pastor’s report. He noted how Trinity is ‘better together’, highlighting that the Shared Leadership Team (staff, Council and HUBS) have come up with goals for 2023, and highlighting what he is excited about for 2023. He noted the following staff transitions: leaving during 2022: Deacon Karen Matthias-Long, Saci Bartos (as full time), Karen Wenhold and Emily Brands, and welcoming Henry Strobel, Jamshid Refahi., Jill Wenzel, Deacon Jane Elliott and Pastor Ric Elliott, Tammy Ferro, and Julia Claffey. Still looking for full-time Associate Pastor and Associate Director for Worship and Music. Thanked staff and introduced those in attendance. Introduced HUB leaders: Marcia Pitzemberger (Worship), Deb Neves (Faith Formation), Cindy Ryan (Fellowship), and Linda Scheckenbach (Christian Care). Thanked Cindy Weiss for her Council service as she ends her term of office, and Cindy was recognized with a certificate of service for her five years as a Council member.

Julie Kinzel, Council Secretary, was introduced and showed/spoke on the revised Trinity’s Reconciling in Christ welcoming statement, which had been approved by Council and endorsed by the Shared Leadership Team. Julie Kinzel also introduced members of the following committees and task forces: Finance, Endowment, Human Resources, Nominating, and Call Committees, Covid Advisory, Racial Justice, Transition Team, Luther Hall, the Loft, and Property Assessment Team Task Forces.

Teri Lanan, Council member and convener of Shared Leadership Team, was introduced and stated that a poster showing the Shared Leadership System, outlining the staff and HUB system, was set up in the room for viewing. HUB members were introduced.

Two Staff members were recognized for service anniversaries. Jamie Price recognized Cathy Pezzuti for 10 years of service as Church Accountant and Tammy Ferro recognized Kim Nolan for 20 years of service in the Pre-School.

A video was then shown highlighting Worshipping Together, Learning Together, Serving Together, Sharing Together, Better Together. Trinity's intern, Vicar Cari States-Codding, gave the sending prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Dianne Kalb, Recording Secretary