

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Lansdale, PA
September 26, 2023 Council Governance Meeting

The September 26th Council Governance meeting was called to order via Zoom by Teri Lanan, Vice President, at 7:00 p.m., followed by devotion/prayer by Pastor Fowler.

In Attendance: David Freudig, Julie Kinzel, Teri Lanan, Jamie Price, William Shimer, Michael Voicheck, and Pastor Fowler. Visitor: Marcia Pitzenberger for portion of meeting. The agenda was approved as presented with a motion made by Julie Kinzel and seconded by Jamie Price.

Julie Kinzel reported for the Nominating Committee. She noted that the Nominating Committee had recently met for the first time and had a few names to consider for Council nominees. She also mentioned the current restriction of only two years allowed on the Committee needs to be reviewed and possibly changed since all members are in their last year. Will need to check the constitution. If any Council member has a name for the Committee to consider for nomination to Council, they should let Julie know.

Marcia Pitzenberger entered the Zoom call to give a presentation on sanctuary accessibility, such as removing the modesty panel and part or all of the first row of pews in the sanctuary, in order to make the area more welcoming to everyone. Council discussed and asked Marcia for more specifics and will send Marcia any questions or concerns they may have.

Jamie Price reported on the financial status as of the end of August from reports that had been pre-sent to Council members. She reported on what the Financial Committee anticipates as the end-of-year forecast. If nothing else changes, should end up in positive/plus budget vs. zero budget. She also highlighted the main challenges that will be occurring for the 2024 budget vs. the 2023 budget. Will need to mitigate some of the projected 2024 deficit. She noted that the Generosity letter is going out tomorrow and will focus on ending 2023 strong and the fact of less revenue in 2024.

Teri Lanan and Dave Freudig discussed Policy 100.121 Umbrella Gift Policy and the fact that the two suggested changes from last month's meeting had been made.

Highlight: A motion, made by Bill Shimer and seconded by Julie Kinzel, to approve the amended Umbrella Gift Policy – was passed.

Teri Lanan discussed the Parlor Enhancement Request and the thoughts of the Fellowship HUB regarding renovations to the parlor to be done in two phases. First phase (Option 1), costing up to \$5,000, has been approved by Endowment and needs Council affirmation. Option 2 will need to go to Finance Committee first. Teri reviewed the proposed changes for Option 1 and Council discussed.

Highlight: A motion, made by Bill Shimer and seconded by Teri Lanan, to approve affirmation of Option 1, ended in a tie yes/no vote. The decision was made to see what the concerns are and then table/discuss at next month's Council meeting.

However, since some merchandise, costing \$1,500, had already been ordered:

Highlight: A motion, made by Teri Lanan and seconded by Bill Shimer, to approve \$1,500 until receiving more details on planned expenditures – passed.

Pastor Fowler led Council Officer Elections. With President Karen Bergey's resignation, new officer(s) need to be elected. Teri Lanan, current Vice President, was nominated and ballot cast/elected for the President position. Bill Shimer was nominated and ballot cast/elected for the Vice President position. At October meeting, discussion will be held on the need for someone to replace Karen Bergey's unfinished term. Will need to look into Constitution revision regarding officer eligibility.

Luther Hall Task Force Zoom meeting will be scheduled via e-mail for available dates.
Council went into Executive Session regarding Call Committee update.

Julie Kinzel reported on updating changes needed to our Constitution based on Synod Constitution changes, which will need to be presented to congregation at two meetings. Voting would take place at annual Congregation Meeting.

Pastor Fowler gave his pastor's report. He discussed returning pledge cards and noted that Connor Watson became a seminary field education student. Regarding building projects, bathroom repairs are starting October 2nd, pavement repairs should be starting end of October, and replacement doors have been ordered. Gave update on Loft progress. Noted a need for a communication improvement.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:40 p.m. with Lord's Prayer. Next Council Governance Meeting is October 24th.

Respectfully Submitted
Dianne Kalb, Recording Secretary