

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Lansdale, PA
March 26, 2024 Council Governance Meeting

The March 26th Council Governance meeting was called to order by William Shimer, President, at 7:00 p.m., in Room 264 followed by devotion/prayer by Pastor Fowler.

In Attendance: Curt Deardorff, David Freudig, Julie Kinzel, Susan Pashos, Jamie Price, William Shimer, Pastor Steiner and Pastor Fowler. Absent: Sandy Cottrell and Michael Voicheck Visitor: none. The agenda was approved as corrected with a motion made by Curt Deardorff and seconded by Julie Kinzel. The February Council Governance Meeting minutes were approved via e-mail. The approval to hire William Henning and Jackie Jones to Maintenance positions was also completed via e-mail.

William Shimer led the reading of the TLC Council Covenant.

Jamie Price responded to any questions on the financial reports which had been sent as a pre-read. She highlighted that revenue was up and expenses were down in February. Through the end of February, revenue is \$13,853 more than budget; expenses are \$22,822 less than budget; thus, showing a surplus of \$36,675. She is planning to hold a Town Hall meeting to address congregational; financial questions for first quarter either the last Sunday of April or the first Sunday of May.

Jamie Price led a discussion on the proposal and need for a new phone system since current contract ends at the end of June. She noted three quotes had been received and were reviewed by the Finance Committee, who is recommending GALCO Communications

Highlight: A motion, made by Susan Pashos and seconded by David Freudig, to approve GALCO Communications for TLC phone system as per the recommendation of Finance Committee for a three-year contract - Passed.

William Shimer led a discussion on Endowment Policy revisions. He noted that they had been waiting for lawyer review, which had been done by Dave Spitko and that he had met with Dave regarding his review suggestions and will continue to work with him on his suggestions. A motion was made by Jamie Price and seconded by Susan Pashos to approve the revisions submitted by the Endowment Committee in Fall of 2023. However, the need to edit some of the language was discussed by Council, especially regarding the current rules/limits for the Scholarship category, such as formalizing the limit per student per calendar year and the need for a change to “educational expenses” vs restricting use for tuition only.

Highlight: A motion, made by William Shimer and seconded by David Freudig, to approve Endowment Committee revisions with amended language of ‘for educational expenses’ and limited to \$3,000 per student per calendar year – Passed.

Highlight: A motion, made by William Shimer and seconded by Curt Deardorff, to approve the revised Endowment Policy submitted by the Endowment Committee as amended by Council – Passed.

Pastor Fowler gave an update on the Loft project and two contract change orders. Estimated completion date is in May.

Pastor Fowler updated the council on the list of candidates who agreed to serve on the Strategic Design Task Force. They will be meeting soon to provide recommendations on possible financial growth for the church or areas where expenses could be reduced in order to align with our current budget.

Pastor Steiner gave an update on the Preschool Camp being held the first two weeks in June. To date there are 19 in total registered, which is 6 more than required to meet budget, but they may still take more registrations since the capacity is 20 each week. Regarding Preschool registration for the Fall – there is an increase in all classes from this past school year.

William Shimer and Pastor Fowler led a discussion on shades in the sanctuary. A gift had been received in 2020 for shades for the semi-circles above the windows for the chapel side of the sanctuary. Discussion was held on whether we also need shades for the semi-circles above the windows on the Luther Hall side. Current cost of arch-type panels for four windows on the chapel side is \$3,650. It would be an additional \$2,000 to also have them on the Luther Hall side. If only chapel side is done, the difference between the cost and the gift money would be \$1,400. Council discussed where this extra money could come from.

Highlight: A motion, made by William Shimer and seconded by Susan Pashos, to approve the base cost of \$3,650 for shades for four windows on chapel side and after first applying Weber gift money, have Finance Committee determine how to pay for the balance difference – Passed.

Council discussed potential repairs/replacement of the broken shades on pulpit side of sanctuary and considered the quote from Custom Window Treatment for \$7,425.00".

Highlight: A motion, made by Curt Deardorff and seconded by William Shimer, to approve \$7,425 for replacing shades. Finance Committee will determine to which budget line this repair should be charged – Passed.

William Shimer gave an update on the Safety & Security Task Force headed by Harry Smyser. The Safety & Security Task Force has suggested installation of a panic button; however, three quotes will be needed before Council can approve anything. Approval by e-mail will be requested when quotes are obtained. Also, a Sunday morning fire drill is being planned and the Worship Hub will be assigned to find a date after May to hold it. Harry Smyser will be invited to attend a Council meeting to discuss plans to implement more security features to our building.

Highlight: A motion, made by William Shimer and seconded by Julie Kinzel, to approve the following representatives to the Synod Assembly on May 3-4: Pastor Fowler, Pastor Steiner, Connor Watson, Ann Shade, Teri Lanan, Dave Freudig, and Curt Deardorff - Passed.

Concerns/celebrations were shared. Dave Freudig raised a concern on a discrepancy he noticed between Trinity's Constitution and Trinity Council Policy on number of Council members and will send an e-mail to William Shimer and Pastor Fowler with the details for it to be put on next Council meeting agenda. A concern was mentioned regarding the communication process of changes regarding baptismal guides. Pastor Steiner has reached out to the Baptismal guides to meet and discuss plans to continue celebrating baptisms and families at TLC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. with a closing prayer by Pastor Steiner.

Respectfully Submitted
Dianne Kalb, Recording Secretary