

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Lansdale, PA
April 23, 2024 - Council Governance Meeting

The April 23rd Council Governance meeting was called to order by Julie Kinzel, Vice President, at 7:00 p.m., in Room 264 followed by devotion/prayer by Pastor Fowler.

In Attendance: Sandy Cottrell, Curt Deardorff, David Freudig, Julie Kinzel, Susan Pashos, Jamie Price, Michael Voicheck, Pastor Steiner and Pastor Fowler. Absent: William Shimer. Visitor: none. The agenda was approved with the addition of Mutual Ministry information under the agenda topic Concerns and Celebrations. The March Council Governance Meeting minutes were approved by e-mail with a motion made by Sandy Cottrell, seconded by Curt Deardorff, and passed. The TLC Council Covenant was recited.

Jamie Price responded to any questions on the financial reports which had been provided on Google Docs as a pre-read. She highlighted that revenue was up and expenses were down in March. Through the end of March, revenue is \$42,488 more than budget; expenses are \$23,510 less than budget; thus, showing a surplus of \$65,998. A discussion was held comparing Easter revenue this year vs. last year with a focus on the change in the offering collection process (passing plates across pews versus leaving offering baskets near the altar rails. Jamie also reported that the Financial Committee recommended using the balance in undesignated bequests (\$6,437.65) and the rest of the money needed from the Facilities Improvement Fund to fund the gap in money (beyond a designated gift) needed for the arch panels and replacing broken shades. She reported that the Finance Committee is having a Thrivent representative attend one of their meetings to see if TLC can improve gains from investments. Jamie will be holding a financial update meeting on May 5th at 9:45 a.m. to share first-quarter results with interested members of the congregation.

Council discussed the difference between Policy 100.117 and the Constitution (C12.01) regarding the number of Council members. The majority of members considered the language of the Constitution to be consistent with the current Council configuration and defined as voting membership. The Constitution is considered the more authoritative document of the two.

Janke Scholarship winners were announced, who were each awarded \$500: Sam Johnson, Tyler Lentz, Ethan Page, Jillian Hawthorne and Phoebe Benner. The monetary gap needed to fund five recipients (\$1850) will be funded from the Discretionary Fund within the Endowment Fund.

Highlight: A motion passed to approve the Janke Scholarship winners noted above, with a motion made by Jamie Price and a second by Susan Pashos.

Safety briefing is on Google Drive and should be reviewed for discussion at the next Council meeting. Luther Hall Task Force town hall meeting is scheduled for May 19 at 9:45 a.m. and on May 20 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Summary of Luther Hall Task Force Dreams and Assessments will be in the next Lansdale Lutheran. Council discussed what it is hoped to learn from the town hall, noting that a one-question survey will be sent out to rank four options shared during the town hall. Council will then make recommendations for congregational vote in the Fall.

Pastor Fowler gave an update on the Strategic Design Task Force. The first meeting is next week.

Jamie Price gave background information on the matching grant process, and the current matching grant gift by a Trinity family who is matching 100% for every dollar given in offerings to the general fund that in total reaches over the budgeted amount of \$264,000 through June, up to a total of \$25,000 in matching. An update will be given at the May 5 service.

Pastor Fowler gave an update on the shades which have been ordered, as well as the Loft project which should be done next month. The new phone system went into effect today.

Pastor Steiner discussed a proposal for a TLC After School Music Pilot Program, from September-December, costing \$24/day/student. There would be a limit of 15 students with 3 staff members. Trinity is working with North Penn School District and the program will start with Inglewood Elementary.

Highlight: A motion passed to approve a pilot program for September to December 2024, with a motion made by Dave Freudig and seconded by Sandy Cottrell,

When staff job descriptions in support of this program are done, hiring recommendations will be brought to Council.

Pastor Fowler presented his report. He noted that regarding the question of a number of Council members, in 2021 the Treasurer was given the right to vote but the Treasurer would not be elected by Council. The issue will be tabled until a church constitution expert can be consulted.

Both Pastor Fowler and Pastor Steiner will be away on June 2nd and the pastor in residence will be Pastor Steve Godsall-Myers who will handle the Sunday services on that day. The following hires need Council approval:

Highlight: a motion passed to approve the hiring of Pastor Rick Elliott for 9 hours/week as Visitation Pastor, with a motion made by Jamie Price and seconded by Julie Kinzel.

Highlight: a motion passed to approve the hiring of Jackie Berardi and Julia Claffey as Summer Camp Counselors, with a motion made by Sandy Cottrell and seconded by Susan Pashos.

Council discussed the need for church doors to close at noon on Fridays due to lack of lobby coverage and settled on the need to make an appointment if a person would have a need to come into the church offices on a Friday afternoon. It was further discussed that the sign on the door needs to be changed, to include a number to call if there is a need to contact someone within the church offices.

Preliminary exploratory discussions have been initiated with North Penn School District regarding their need for space for a pre-K and possible use of our facility.

Concerns and celebrations were shared. Chip briefly explained why the constitutionally required Mutual Ministry Committee is needed and provided a 14-page folder of Mutual Ministry documents and guidelines as a pre-read for the May Council Meeting. In preparation for the May council meeting Julie asked all to compare the text describing the HR Committee and the Mutual Ministry Committee as described in the constitution and continuing resolutions and bring back comments to the May meeting. Pastor Steiner's installation is May 19th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
Dianne Kalb, Recording Secretary