

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Lansdale, PA
June 25, 2024 Council Governance Meeting

The June 25th 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: Sandy Cottrell, Curt Deardorff, David Freudig, Julie Kinzel, Susan Pashos, William Shimer, Pastor Fowler and Pastor Steiner. Absent: Jamie Price and Michael Voicheck. Visitor: none.

The agenda was approved, and the Council Covenant was read responsively. The May Council Governance Meeting minutes were previously approved by e-mail.

Financial highlights at the end of May: Revenue was up (\$657,604 vs. the budget of \$630,859) and expenses were down (\$631,120 vs. the budget of \$677,412), thus showing an actual net surplus of \$73,037 over budget. The Financial Report was approved with a motion by Sandy Cottrell and second by Susan Pashos.

William Shimer opened a discussion on the attempt to resolve Constitution wording changes regarding defining voting laity Council members. Sandy Cottrell's proposed draft revision was discussed with Sandy reviewing the changes made in the draft to address lack of clarity. Suggestions to the revision were requested and discussed and editing will be done from the suggestions.

Highlight: A motion was made by William Shimer, seconded by Julie Kinzel and passed, to submit the edited proposed changes to the Constitution (C12.01) to the Synod. Pr Fritz will submit them.

William Shimer opened a discussion regarding the Property Committee remit. Length of terms and prospective members were discussed, and it was noted that the Property Committee would exist indefinitely as a committee and have the responsibility for creating and updating a 3-Year Plan which would be shifted from the Visioning Team (no longer in existence) to this re-established Property Committee. After discussion of suggested revisions:

Highlight: A motion, made by Sandy Cottrell and seconded by David Freudig, to approve the Property Committee Agreement as edited – passed.

Highlight: A motion, made by William Shimer and seconded by Sandy Cottrell, to approve approaching the four potential members listed on the Property Committee remit – passed.

Julie Kinzel gave an update on the Mutual Ministry and Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will be meeting tomorrow (June 26) and will be discussing Mutual Ministry membership.

Council then recessed into Executive Session for a progress update on the Strategic Design Team.

Following reconvening from the Executive Session to the general session, the Panic Button proposal from the Safety and Security Committee was discussed.

Highlight: A motion, made by David Freudig and seconded by Curt Deardorff, to approve the Panic Button proposal for \$2,350 as submitted by the Safety & Security Team, and to contact the Finance Committee to determine where to charge the cost – passed.

William Shimer requested that Council members respond to a doodle invite to indicate availability for a special meeting by Zoom to discuss the Safety & Security Committee's focused topics.

William Shimer led a discussion on options about the use of the parlor and the coffee hour venue, for which the Fellowship Hub has responsibility. It was noted that there are some church members who want coffee hour back in Hyson Hall. Council questioned if a compromise for the coffee hour venue could be found that would be satisfying to both groups. Also, Chip Deardorff on behalf of the Safety & Security Team expressed concerns that corridor gathering is unsafe and a hazard. Regarding the parlor, Council felt they needed more information on proposed changes.

Accordingly, William Shimer will contact the Fellowship Committee to arrange for Council to meet with them a half hour before the Shared Leadership Meeting on July 9th for questions and to express Council's concerns. Council was asked to e-mail questions to Bill in advance of this pending July 9th meeting.

Pastor Fowler gave the pastor's report: Evan Morris' Eagle Scout project is getting scouting unit approvals. He gave an update on security cameras – Trinity is still working on approval from the Pa State from whom we are seeking grant support, by sending in quarterly reports to State for approval. Accordingly, the Loft is not yet open, and timelines are pending; pending work is being completed in-house by Denny. The Generosity Team is reconnecting with Trinity members not coming or contributing. VBS had over 50 volunteers and 150 kids registered, and Faith Formation did a great job running the program. Preparations for the upcoming Music Camp (partnering with St. John UCC) is ongoing. It was noted that ASP and Youth Gathering are coming up.

Council went again into Executive Session at 8:50 for a short discussion on an issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
Dianne Kalb, Recording Secretary