

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Lansdale, PA
October 22, 2024 - Council Governance Meeting

The October 22nd Council Governance meeting was called to order by William Shimer, President, at 7:01 p.m., in Room 264 followed by devotion/prayer by Pastor Fowler.

In Attendance: Sandy Cottrell, Curt Deardorff, David Freudig, Julie Kinzel, Susan Pashos (via computer), Jamie Price, William Shimer, Michael Voicheck, Pastor Steiner, and Pastor Fowler. Dianne Kalb, Recording Secretary. Absent: none. Visitor: Bill Graeff, Convener of the SDTF for a portion of the meeting.

Pr Fritz led devotions calling upon John 3 for guiding our reflections over such a difficult time. The agenda was approved and the Council Covenant was read responsively.

Financial Updates: At the end of September revenue was up \$71,580 (\$1,101,734 vs. budget of \$1,030,154) and expenses were down \$17,731 (\$1,156,370 vs. budget of \$1,174,101), thus showing an actual net surplus of \$89,311 over budget. Offerings for the month of September were below last year's total, and Trinity ended September 2024 year-to-date with a deficit. However, Jamie indicated that she expects offerings to be strong in the fourth quarter. Due to increased giving and a reduction in expenses from utilities and other areas, the Finance Committee is forecasting the 2024 deficit to be approximately \$50,000 instead of the planned deficit of \$121,632. The next financial update meeting for the congregation will be November 10th between Sunday services.

Jamie Price reviewed and answered questions on the proposed Trinity *Legacy Fund Resolution and Policy*, which was submitted by Dave Crosson, Andy Krepps, Bill Graeff and herself. She explained the difference between this policy and the Endowment Fund, noting that this new policy will supplement the operating budget.

Highlight: A motion was made by William Shimer and seconded by Sandy Cottrell to approve the Trinity Legacy Fund Resolution as the Policy was presented. Any further questions on this proposal should be e-mailed to Jamie Price by the end of the week and an e-mail vote on the motion will then be taken. (**Post note:** The proposed new Legacy Fund Resolution and Policy to help supplement the operating budget with such gifts was approved.)

Preschool: On behalf of Tammy Ferro, Preschool Administrator, and himself, Pastor Jonathan reviewed a proposal to add a 2-year-old class to the Pre-school program starting in the Fall of 2025. He reviewed the financial estimates (shown on spreadsheet in Finance folder) if a class was added based on \$175/month or \$200/month cost. Questions and discussion by Council followed and then a vote was taken. A minimum of 6 students enrolled in each 2 year old class is the goal to be budget neutral. Tammy is confident we will reach that.

Highlight: A motion, made by Sandy Cottrell and seconded by Jamie Price, to approve a Pre-school 2-year class at \$200/month starting in September 2025 was passed.

Mutual Ministry Committee: Julie Kinzel gave an update. The Committee addressing the future considerations for Mutual Ministry have met on five occasions over 3 months discussing best practices to determine the best model for Trinity. It is anticipated that the Committee will consist of two or three members whose remit will be to focus on conflict resolution and support of pastors and lay leaders, whereas Council remains the advocate for the congregation. The Committee will be meeting again next week for further discussions.

Property Committee and SDTF/Implementation Team: Curt Deardorff and Bill Graeff gave updates on the joint efforts of the Property Committee and SDTF (transitioned into the Implementation Team). A Building and Grounds Task Force has been created to handle the transition since Denny Smith has left Trinity's staff on October 18. The Task Force will manage transition processes to assure continuity for current needs (focusing on details for overall security and open/closing security, maintaining the church calendar, event setups, and cleaning, for example). A job description for the Director of Building & Grounds has been created and posted. Three points of contact for Property oversight (Bill Graeff, Steve Pitzenberger and Harry Smyser) have been identified from within the Building & Grounds Task Force (members: Bill Graeff, Steve Pitzenberger, Harry Smyser, Dave Kriebel, and Cort Birenbaum). While subcontracting services (for example, for cleaning) to supplement the current laity support are being considered, more volunteers for the Monday morning crew were requested, and the crew now numbers eight. The Implementation team is working in

alignment with the reorganization of roles (administrative to operational focused) and in considering the staff decisions made based on the offers made.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Fowler gave update on results of Implementation Team/Strategic Design Task Force. He also reminded everyone of the Shared Leadership retreat on November 1st and 2nd at Camp Men-o-lan.

Council then recessed into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m., before adjournment. The next Council meeting is November 26.

Respectfully Submitted
Dianne Kalb, Recording Secretary