

## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 19, 2020 – 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

**Call to Order:** Linda Reed      **Time:** 6:35 pm

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Schock led council in devotion and prayer from 1 Peter and discussed what it means to be the church and to tend the flock.

**Roll Call & Action on Absentees:** Present at the meeting were Christina Andrae, Mary Ann Coulston, Meri Beth Elder, Rick Neish, Karen Mowry, John McManamy, Zach Arbore, Jodi Kronenwetter, Linda Reed, Pastor Schock, Mark Jones, and Kennette Grohal. Jason Sheppard attended the meeting via Zoom web conferencing.

**Motion** to accept Sara McDowell as unexcused from the meeting: Zach Arbore. Second: Kennette Grohal. Motion carried.

**Adoption of Agenda:** **Motion** to adopt agenda as presented with no changes: Christina Andrae. Second: Meri Beth Elder. Motion carried.

**Consideration of Council Minutes:** **Motion** to approve minutes from the April 8, 2020 council meeting as presented with no changes: Mary Ann Coulston. Second: John McManamy. Motion carried.

**Motion** to approve minutes from the April 27, 2020 council meeting as presented with no changes: Zach Arbore. Second: Kennette Grohal. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rick Neish gave a summary of the previously distributed report for March. No questions were noted. **Motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report: Zach Arbore. Second: Mary Ann Coulston. Motion carried.

**Introduction / Welcome (Christine Weller, Health and Wellness Coordinator):** Pastor Schock introduced Christine Weller to council and asked her to share what she's been working on since becoming the Health and Wellness Coordinator.

Christine Weller expressed her thankfulness to council and her belief that this position truly feels it's a call to help spread the word of what goes on at Trinity. She asked council to be patient while she continues to learn. Christine has been meeting people through delivering meals and has started to identify the people that could be involved with the Dinner Ministry.

Christine expressed her amazement of all this congregation does and she's working on a video series to highlight some of the ministries at Trinity. For Mother's Day, she put devotion items together. She's also looking how we can revive the Stephen's Ministry and has also worked on how to open the church safely.

Meri Beth Elder commented on how Christine has been such a blessing in her short time with Trinity. Mary Ann Coulston also commented that she couldn't believe how much Christine has been able to accomplish in the short time she's been with Trinity.

Christine Weller talked about her involvement with the Christian Education Committee and the idea to drop off something for the recent graduates. Another idea from the Christian Education meeting was doing a "Flat Jesus" activity that they could mail to the kids to show them Jesus is

always with them so they could take it with them in the summer. Some other ideas coming from Christian Education Committee included setting up a hashtag online for "Flat Jesus," delivering activities in a pizza box for the summer for church families, producing a movie series with talking points.

**Being Church Together During the COVID-19 Pandemic:** Meri Beth Elder spoke to council about the next steps as we look to safely reopen Trinity. She addressed the need to form an ad-hoc committee to work on identifying all the steps needed to reopen. This ad-hoc committee preliminarily met last Saturday. Meri Beth stressed whatever we decide needs to be very transparent. The committee to brainstorm a bunch of ideas with a letter going out to the congregation saying essentially that we're just not ready after looking at different options for worship. The letter also emphasizes all the activities Trinity is continuing to do at this time.

Pastor Schock commented on that churches in the area are doing different things in regards to opening, but we need to do what's best for Trinity.

Zach Arbore **motioned** to further suspend in-person worship services for the immediate future as council constantly evaluates the guidance from the CDC, Department of Health and Synod. Second: John McManamy. Motion carried.

Linda Reed read a communication from the Car Hop Committee inquiring when the Car Hop should occur. Christine Weller proposed a parade of cars as an alternative or a virtual car hop. John McManamy **motioned** all the events through the end of August are cancelled due to COVID-19. Second: Zach Arbore. Motion carried.

Zach Arbore (ad-hoc committee) commented the guidance from the State basically says if you can do it electronically instead of in-person, you should.

Pastor Schock commented about a need to discuss about people wanting to use the church facilities. Discussion ensued. Zach Arbore **motioned** to require outside groups and Church Committee meetings to continue as electronic or virtual meetings. Second: Kennette Grohal. Motion carried.

**Communication:** Linda Reed read a letter from Pastor Schock to council announcing his intent to retire, with his last day in the office being July 31, 2020 using vacation time for his last day employed being September 1, 2020.

John McManamy **motioned** to accept the retirement letter from Pastor Schock with great regret. Second: Mary Ann Coulston. Pastor Schock abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Pastor Schock communicated that the Synod already has started looking for an interim Pastor and will help with the transition. Hopefully an interim will be available in August. Pastor Schock expressed his thanks to council and the congregation and will send out his letter to the congregation tomorrow.

Linda Reed commented that the Synod are looking to send out Pastor Peter Asplin to talk with council next month to help with the transition. Linda Reed will send a letter on behalf of Mutual Ministry to go out to the congregation. A similar message will be posted on Trinity's Facebook page.

**Motion to Adjourn with Prayer:** Zach Arbore. Second: Jason Sheppard. Motion carried. Council prayed the Lord's Prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.**