

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 Zoom Conference**

**Call to Order:** Zachary Arbore      **Time:** 7:00 pm

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Paula Schmitt led the council in prayer.

**Roll Call & Action on Absentees:**

Present at the meeting were Zachary Arbore, Amanda Cole, Meri Beth Elder, Kennette Grohal, Herb Harris, Kathe Houck, Donna Jeffrey, Mark Jones, Jodi Kronenwetter, Michael Macey, Karen Mowry, Rick Neish, Dana Shannon, and Pastor Paula Schmitt.

All members present.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

An addition to the agenda was requested by Rick Neish regarding a motion from Special Gifts/Evangelism

**Motion** to accept the agenda as presented with the changes noted above: Herb Harris.  
Second: Kennette Grohal. Motion carried.

**Consideration of Council Minutes:**

**January 2021 Minutes:**

Kathe Houck corrected the Treasurer's Report from December to November and also remove the motion to accept, as it was not necessary.

**Motion** to accept Council Minutes and Changes: Kathe Houck. Second: Meri Beth Elder.  
Motion carried.

**January 28-19, 2021 Email Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** to accept Council Email Meeting Minutes Herb Harris. Second: Meri Beth Elder.

**Communications:** No report.

**Treasurers Report:**

Rick Neish provided an informal report as he finalizes 2020 and January 2021.

- Currently Trinity has a net positive cash flow (including funds from the endowment funds).
- As of February 16, 2021, giving is greater than budgeted including over one-third for Health & Wellness.
- Utilities for February are expected to be higher due to the weather this month.
- The new Storm Water fees from the City of Latrobe is anticipated to be \$1,000. Christine Weller agreed to discuss the accuracy of this fee with the city.
- Collectively the committees request of \$9,000 has been approved.

**Ministry Report:**

Health and Wellness Coordinator

Christine Weller was not able to attend the meeting.

Return to Worship: Review of Michael Macey's Plan

Michael Macey explained his phased reopening plan for Trinity. Pastor Paula expressed the need to have all four services open at the same time.

Nominating Committee

Zachary Arbore will contact Jim Burica to verify the method of current Nominating Committee choosing the new committee. The discussion has been tabled to March.

**Executive Committee:**

Same Gender Wedding – January 2022

Pastor Paula Schmitt has repealed the request for Council/Congregation to approve the same gender wedding at Trinity. She would like to complete a study of the congregations' opinion.

Mutual Ministry Concerns

Council received "Respect at Trinity – Moving Forward with Council's Leadership"

**Motion:** Kathe Houck made a motion create an ad hoc committee to examine the development of a Continuing Resolution regarding the expectations of interpersonal relationships at Trinity: Kathe Houck. Second: Pastor Paula Schmitt. Motion carried.

Annual Report Deadline – April 1, 2021

2020 Committee Reports are due on or before April 1, 2021

Telegram for Council Communication

Dana Shannon explained the use of Telegram and the benefits of using it for Council communication. The Executive Committee will use it to test prior to any decision to roll out to the entire Council.

**Motions:****Constitution & Bylaws:**

**Motion** to approved wording changes regarding the constitutional authority of Council to approve up to \$40,000 for non-budgeted items and term limits for Council member. Motion carried.

**Motion** to approve the movement of committee duties from the bylaws to continuing resolutions. Motion carried.

*\*Congregational approval needed.*

**Executive Committee:**

**Motion** to name Return to Worship an ad hoc committee. Motion carried.

**Motion** to appoint a nominating committee. Motion carried.

**Return to Worship:**

**Motion** to plan to return to in person worship during Holy Week (starting on Palm Sunday). All services with masks, social distancing, sign-in sheets, and no singing. Motion carried.

**Special Gifts:**

**Motion** At the request of and after consultation with the Evangelism Committee (Chair, Karen Mowry), Special Gifts is in favor of and recommends to Council for continuing Trinity's support of two Missionaries in 2021 at the level of \$1,000 for each of the two Missionaries with funding 1st to be obtained from a Congregational appeal with the remainder, if needed, to be supported by appropriate Dedicated and / or Endowed Investments. The covenant to be signed by Pastor Schmitt & the Evangelism Committee as per norm. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:**

Kathe Houck provided a document from Pastor Asplin – "An intentional Interim Concept". Pastor Asplin discussed this topic at the February 2, 2021 Council Orientation meeting.

**New Business:**

Announcements from the Chair - President Zachary Arbore

- Meetings to begin at time specified
- Attendees are to follow video conferencing etiquette including muting microphones when attendee is not speaking.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Kennette Grohal. Second: Meri Beth Elder. 9:17 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:00 pm – Zoom Conferencing