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Lutheran Church

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 22, 2015

4:00-7:00 p.m.

Present: Gail Olson, Doug Johnson, Sara Godfrey, Eric Olsen, Dana Miller, Tom Olsen, Bob Eiselt

Guest: Tom Jolivet (4:30)

1. Devotions (Eric Olsen – Story of Joseph in honor of Father's Day)
2. Interim update/discussion (Gail) – Council interviewed a possible interim senior pastor on Friday. He would not be available until August. All members of council were impressed by his experience and process for transition. Motion made to extend a call, contingent upon acceptance of an agreeable package. M/S/P
3. Discussion: Possible debt reduction appeal (Tom Jolivet)
 - a. A good stewardship committee has been created with a broad range of experiences. They are meeting again tonight. Council charges the Stewardship Committee to hold a Summer Appeal to work toward a balanced budget for this fiscal year.
 - b. We will still need to do a formal annual pledge collection before the end of this fiscal year for next fiscal year.
 - c. Consideration of a 3-year debt reduction appeal. Consider sending out information related to this appeal prior to the annual meeting in November and asking for a congregational vote at the annual meeting.
4. Call committee – next steps – We are focusing on bringing in an interim pastor. Interim pastors tend to have a process for preparation for the next Senior Pastor and it is important that we begin the process before the call committee begins its work.
5. Sunday worship service times – Motion to go back to 9:00 and 10:30 Sunday worship times beginning in the fall based on the results of the congregational poll. Results were strongly for moving back to the prior schedule. M/S/P. Some responses came back also requesting reinstating Saturday night services. Council does intend to consider this issue again once we have an interim in place and can evaluate the 2016 budget.
6. Long-term financing update (Tom, Bob) – Bob and Tom met with Bayport Bank and Thrivent. Both representatives seemed satisfied with their institution's relationship with Trinity.
 - a. Loans – LOC
 - b. Thrivent
 - c. Tom and Bob would like to create a Financial Scorecard to publish in Trinity Today.
7. Budget update
 - a. 2015 budget review year-to-date
 - b. Building a budget for 2016
 - i. Tom, Bob and Ellen all separately assessed historical pledging/income and then reconvened to discuss their determinations. All of them came up to an estimate right around \$1.4M for FY16.
 - c. Soliciting congregational feedback

8. Staffing issues (Gail, Tom, Bob)

- a. CYF has requested additional staffing in 2 areas. (Proposal made in last month's council meeting.)
 - i. Sunday school staffing (starting in August – additional 10 hours per week)
 - ii. 7th-8th Grade Confirmation staffing (starting in August – additional 10 hours per week)

Per the survey, CYF was one of the top concerns of the congregation. Cost and benefit were considered.

Motion made to fill these 2 positions August 1 through the end of the calendar year based on the clear importance of developing this area of our congregation. M/S/P.

- b. Administration hours during transition – Jody Thone has put in a tremendous amount of extra work since the departure of Pastor Mark. Motion to authorize up to 10 additional hours per week for Jody Thone for the time period of June 1 through approximately August 15. M/S/P.

9. Additional follow-up on Holy Cow! Survey

10. Closing prayer, adjournment.

Next Regular Council Meeting - Monday, July 20, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.