

Trinity Lutheran Church, Durand, IL

Council Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2020

Present: Sharon Beksel, Shannon Brown, Maureen Witte, Jody Steinke, Michelle Chatfield, Scott Jones and Dale Tunak.

Maureen called the meeting to order via zoom at 6:41 pm, quorum declared.

Maureen offered an opening prayer.

February council meeting minutes were reviewed. The e-mail and phone motions that have been made since the last meeting were discussed. Scott made a motion that the e-mail and phone motions and votes need to be recorded and the minutes be accepted with that addition, Dale seconded, motion approved.

The report of the Financial Secretary was reviewed. Sharon made a motion to accept the report, Scott seconded, motion approved.

The report from the Treasurer was reviewed. Shannon pointed out that income for February was low, so it was necessary to use \$3000.00 from the General Offering fund to pay bills. The bills included Snow removal payment and Fire extinguisher testing. Dale made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Sharon seconded, motion approved.

The reports of the SAM, Parish Administrator, and Christian Education were reviewed. Scott made a motion to accept these reports, Jody seconded, motion approved.

Michelle made a motion to approve the reports from Building and grounds and the Youth group, Maureen seconded, motion approved.

Updates from Old Business:

April in Durand was cancelled by DARTS, so the fun fair will be postponed until next year.

Synod Assembly has been postponed.

Nancy Norland has agreed to a one year term on the Audit Committee. Maureen made a motion to accept Nancy as a member of the Audit Committee, Jody seconded, motion approved.

Call committee Ministry Site Profile was discussed. The council had received several pages by e-mail to review. Maureen presented and discussed the ones that had not be sent out. It was suggested that the goals listed on page 4 include "having more of a presence in the community" and also suggested that under Our Congregation on page 10, the wording be changed to say

“several liberals” instead of “at least one liberal”. “Being grounded in the gospel” will be included in Our Wishes on page 10. Maureen is going to check into appropriate resources for references. As Chairperson of the Call Committee, Maureen plans to make the changes and present the paperwork to Pastor Bitner for review and possible corrections.

New Business:

Council discussed whether to continue to pay all of our paid staff as the stay at home order is in affect and there is no activity at the church. Maureen made a motion that we continue to pay them all through April, Michelle seconded, (Dale recused himself from voting), motion approved.

Question from the suggestion box were discussed. It was questioned whether the Liaison to committees was responsible for starting the team meetings. Sharon read the duties of the Liaisons and encouraged everyone to make sure they reach out to their committees if they haven't already. It was also suggested that council decisions be shared and publicized more than just in the minutes on the bulletin board. Although a lot of decisions are shared, it was determined that anyone is welcome to make copies of the copy on the bulletin board and that the minutes are also available electronically through the traveler. Both of the issues will be addressed in the next traveler.

It was discussed that things seem to be going pretty smooth with the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Maureen stated that Sharon is doing a good job of reaching out to people through social media, Zoom meetings and making sure that those without those options have someone reaching out to them. Sharon will do her services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter using Facebook Live as it seems to be reaching the most people.

Mike Bolen put in a request for more handicap parking. Don Witte and Dale Tunak will look further into the options.

Sharon brought to council's attention that the ELCA is offering a food grant on a first come, first serve basis. It would have to include options to give online to support a food program with ELCA matching up to \$500.00. Support for the blessing boxes was discussed. Council determined that so many people are struggling right now and that we would not pursue that at this time.

Council shared the Lord's Prayer together, followed by a blessing from Sharon.

Scott made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm, Michelle seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Jody Steinke