

Congregational Meeting Minutes ~ Sunday, February 25, 2024

(Approved by the Congregation on June 23, 2024)

1. **11:09 am** Call to Order/Welcome – Chris Hoelter, President
2. **Opening Prayer** – Pastor Mark Hoelter
3. **Review and Approve Minutes** from September 17, 2023 Special Congregational Meeting
Motion to approve minutes made by Joyce Twiss. Seconded by Sally Schaffer. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

4. **Updates from the Church Council Boards**

a. **Board of Education –**

Pat Kunert presented the report on the behalf of Chair Suzanne Frank. The Early Learning Center currently has 98 students, an increase of 15 from the beginning of the year. The board is currently working on a proposed budget to be approved in March. The school is currently at 52 total students. 14 of the 52 students were initially part of the TELC program. Trinity school participated in LEST the other week. It was a wonderful time for students to compete in academic, athletics, and performing arts. Also a great opportunity for fellowship with fellow students, parents, and staff. The principal continues to field calls and tour prospective families. The Kindergarten 'Round-up' event is March 14th.

The 2024-2025 Tuition and Salary recommendations from the Board of Education was presented. All Trinity staff will receive a 4% increase and tuition will be increased to \$8,583.00. The increase in tuition will provide approx. \$18,000 in additional tuition (based on 60 students) and offset the staff salary increases. Registration fees and application fees will also be increased this year. Full recommendations and details were provided in the agenda.

The motion was put forward by the Board of Education (with approval by the finance committee). The motion was seconded by Ruth Register. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

b. **Board of Ministry and Outreach –**

Judy Lebrun presented the report on behalf of Chair Jim Riedl. Several items in the written report provided to the congregation were highlighted. Ru's work on translating Luther's Small Catechism into Mayan is almost completed. The use of the Common Cup has returned. Sunday School has been happening each Sunday under the direction of Jeff Travis and Jan Gaylord. Youth have been having Bible study and basketball on Friday nights. The efforts of the Thanksgiving food donations and Christmas gift program were called out.

This summer's VBS program will be chaired by Allison Hoelter with assistance from Jan Gaylord and Jeff Travis. A date for VBS has not been finalized.

The Marketing committee has met one time and discussed increasing awareness of all of the programs at Trinity. A member has already pledged \$500 to support placing advertisements in neighborhood newspapers.

c. Board of Finance and Properties –

Chuck Kunert presented the for the Board of Finance and Properties. Chuck directed the congregation to review the written update provided in the agenda and let him know if there were any questions. A question was asked about the development of Lot 300. Plans to develop the lot are still in discussion. Our partners at Edlen Group have been working to find local/state grants that would make an affordable housing project feasible. The current cycle of grants have small project grants available but the current interest rates has made it difficult to make these projects work. The group is currently targeting a grant that has a June application period. If this application is not successful, the congregation will be asked if we should list the property for sale.

The overall age of the building was discussed (majority built in 1958). Old buildings have issues and get fixing these issues gets more expensive when there are deferred. Two big projects are coming soon, repairing/replacing the roof over the fellowship hall, offices, and 3 classrooms – bids range from 120k – 168k. The parking lot also needs to be resurfaced (no bids yet).

5. Treasurer’s Report –

Elaine Von Wald reviewed the financial statements provided in the agenda (Condensed Profit Loss thru 12/31/2023 & Condensed Budget to Actual with Prior Year Comparison). The congregation was directed to keys notes made on the bottom of page 10, after the Condensed budget sheet. The finance committee is also collecting information from the boards to form the budget for the next fiscal year. For the school to break even it would need an additional 26 students. To overcome property and facilities challenges, a special maintenance fund is being created to help pay for large projects.

6. President’s Report –

Chris Hoelter reviewed the 3 items listed under the president’s report in the agenda. The floor was open for questions related to the items presented, no questions were raised.

7. New Business – No new business presented.

8. 11:56 am Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was closed with the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Hoelter – *secretary per tem*
