

Trinity Congregation Council Minutes

August 19, 2025

Present: Kevin Brown, John Burbank, Lynn Buske, Henry Butler, Robin Drout, Karla Halloin, Greg Helgeson, Chris Lindahl, Pat Mertens, Mary Schoenknecht, John Schroedl, Jacqueline Strayer, Michelle Zumwalt, Craig Olsen, Pastor Patrick Patterson

Absent: Ellen Dovre, Arla Prestin, Pastor Tom Westcott

- 1) Call to Order:** President Kevin Brown called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
- 2) Devotion:** Greg Helgeson provided an opening devotion based on Matthew 19.
- 3) Approval of July Council Minutes:** The July Council minutes were approved as written.
- 4) Approval of July Financial Report:** Craig Olsen reviewed the July financial results. We had a loss of nearly \$25,000 for the month. Expenses were under budget, but income was also lower than expected. Craig noted that there are approximately \$18,000 in pre-paid preschool registration fees (currently in a designated fund account) that will not be credited to the operating income until the start of the school year. The July results are concerning, but we need more data before drawing any conclusions. The July financial report was approved as presented.
- 5) Pastors Reports:** There were no questions or comments on Pastor Tom's written report for the month. Pastor Patrick reported that his just completed sabbatical was very worthwhile and a report on his experience will be prepared in the near future.
- 6) Staff and Committee Reports:** There were no questions or comments on the written staff and committee reports for the month.
- 7) Old Business**
 - a) FriendFest Update:**
 - 1) Games and Activities Committee:** Greg Helgeson presented a diagram showing the planned layout of the FriendFest grounds. Several details were discussed including when the rented tent and kids' activities will be set up.
 - 2) Food Committee:** Pat Mertens asked about composting plans for FriendFest. It was decided that she would contact Earthbound, the vendor that provides composting pick-up for the Food Pantry, to determine if we could get containers for a special compost pick-up for FriendFest. Greg Helgeson and Karla Halloin will attend the City's beer license review committee meeting on Sept. 2 to represent Trinity. We will use either wrist bands or hand stamps to signify those who have given proof of age to obtain beer at FriendFest. Soda, water, and ice cream distribution procedures were discussed.
 - 3) Volunteers Committee:** Jacque Strayer is using Set-Up Genius to create online sign-up for dessert donations and volunteers for FriendFest. Volunteer needs were

discussed for setup, during FriendFest, and clean up. Sign-up sheets will also be made available in the church lobby during the Sunday morning services.

- 4) **Publicity Committee:** Robin Drout reviewed the publicity efforts underway for FriendFest. Posters and weekly announcements will begin at services this weekend. Robin will see that a link for online volunteer sign-up is added to Trinity's website. Several yard signs are planned for the church grounds along E. Lexington Blvd and the Clairemont Ave frontage road in the week prior to FriendFest to inform those passing the church about FriendFest. A flyer that can be handed out to church neighbors will also be prepared.
- 5) **General:** Karla Halloin requested that those involved in FriendFest organization put together a simple report after FriendFest listing: what you did, what worked well, and what didn't work. She will save this information for use next year.

b) Personnel Updates: Katie Conner began her duties as CYF Director on August 1. We are still looking for a worship and music coordinator and an accompanist for the Trinity Choir.

c) Rental Property: JDM Construction and Remodeling began work on the church's rental property this last week. Walter's Painting, owned by a Trinity member, will be performing painting work. All repair and rehab work is expected to be completed in August. We can probably begin showing the property to prospective renters in the near future.

It was noted that the Endowment Trust has accepted an offer for the purchase its rental house at 1408 E. Lexington Blvd (next to the above property).

d) Church Directory Update: We are approaching the last available photography dates for the new church directory (September 9 to 13). We are encouraging people to sign up for a photo session by September 2 as Universal Church Directories may consolidate the number of days they are on site based on the number of appointments filled.

8) New Business

a) Annual Meeting Update: The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held this Sunday, August 24, at 10:30 a.m. The 2024-2025 Annual Report has been made available to the congregation in both paper and online formats. Kevin Brown and Karla Halloin both have family activities to attend to on Sunday, so Robin Drout will preside at the meeting. Robin asked for a volunteer from the Council to take minutes at the meeting in his place. Michelle Zumwalt agreed to do this.

9) Closing Prayer: Pastor Patrick provided a closing prayer.

10) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Robin Drout
Secretary