

Trinity Congregation Council Minutes January 20, 2026

Present: Kevin Brown, Henry Butler, Erik Dovre, Robin Drout, Karla Halloin, Dawn Marcott, Mary Schoenknecht, Denyse Schroeder, Gail Schulner, Jacqueline Strayer, Craig Olsen, Pastor Patrick Patterson, Pastor Tom Westcott

Absent: Lynn Buske, Greg Helgeson, John Schroedl, Michelle Zumwalt

- 1. Call to Order:** President Karla Halloin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2. Devotion:** Erik Dovre provided a devotion on reconciliation, inspired by the writings and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- 3. Approval of November Council Minutes:** The November Council minutes were approved as written.
- 4. Approval of December Financial Report:** Craig Olsen reviewed the December financial results. Income for December was \$201,769, which was the second highest December income in the last six years. Expenses for the month were \$97,363. This gives us a fiscal year-to-date surplus of \$73,455 as we enter the new year. This meets our goal of having at least a \$60,000 surplus to enter the new year in order to balance income and expenses at the end of the fiscal year on June 30. As this goal was not specifically publicized, several Council members indicated that the congregation's end of year financial response is very appreciated. The December financial report was approved as presented.
- 5. Pastors Reports:**

Pastor Tom supplemented his written report with the following:

 - He is working on an update to Trinity's child safety manual. The current manual is 10 years old and needs to be reviewed and updated as necessary. He is working with an outside consultant.

Pastor Patrick supplemented his written report with the following:

 - He is continuing to participate in planning and training for several faith-based responses to injustice that are planned for our area.
 - The commercial refrigerator in the kitchen is still down, but Benedict's now has a replacement part on order for the compressor which should fix the problem.

There were no other questions or comments on the written pastor reports for the month.
- 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. **Rental Property:** Now that the holidays are over, there has been more interest expressed in renting our E. Lexington Blvd. house. Several parties have viewed the property, although none have chosen to rent it. Bruce Weegman, our volunteer property manager, has additional people interested. Hopefully the property can be rented by March 1.
- b. **Photo Directory Update:** It is expected that final directory layout will be submitted to Universal Church Directories by the end of January. Jacque Strayer will reach out to Universal to make sure everything is completed.
- c. **Council Bulletin Board Portraits:** We should have everyone's portrait now so that the photos of Council members on the swinging bulletin board outside the Worship Center will be up-to-date.

8. New Business

- a. **Special Congregational Meeting-Clairemont House Sale:** The Endowment Trust has received an offer to buy the 1413 E. Clairemont Ave. property. There are just a few final details being worked out with the buyer. As with the E. Lexington Blvd. property that was sold last November, the title for Clairemont Ave. property is in the name of Trinity Lutheran Church. Therefore, congregation approval of the sale is required. A special Congregation Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 25, at 10:30 a.m. to discuss and approve the sale. A resolution is being prepared for the congregation to vote on that is very similar to the resolution used for the sale of the Endowment's E. Lexington Blvd. property. After discussion it was moved and seconded that the Council recommends approval of the property sale by the congregation. The motion was approved.
- b. **Council Resignation:** Natalie Hanson and her family will be moving out of state this coming spring, so Natalie has resigned her Council position. There are 2-1/2 years remaining on her term. The Council can appoint a replacement for Natalie to serve until next August's Annual Meeting. There will then be a two-year Council term to be filled at the Annual Meeting. A couple of possible replacements for Natalie were discussed. Pastor Patrick will contact these individuals to discern their interest in completing Natalie's term. Once candidate(s) are available, Pastor Patrick suggested that the Council vote on an appointment via e-mail. This way the new individual can begin serving at the February Council meeting.

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

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Robin Drout
Secretary