

Trinity Congregation Council Minutes September 16, 2025

Present: Kevin Brown, Henry Butler, Robin Drout, Karla Halloin, Greg Helgeson, Dawn Marcott, Mary Schoenknecht, Denyse Schroeder, John Schroedl, Jacqueline Strayer, Craig Olsen, Pastor Patrick Patterson, Pastor Tom Westcott

Absent: Lynn Buske, Erik Dovre, Natalie Hanson, Gail Schulner, Michelle Zumwalt

- 1. Call to Order:** President Kevin Brown called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
- 2. Devotion:** Karla Halloin provided an opening devotion.
- 3. Introduction of Council Members:** Council members introduced themselves by giving their background, involvement at Trinity, and answering a hypothetical question posed by Karla about how they would use three unrestricted days of time.
- 4. Election of Officers:** Nominees who have agreed to serve as Congregation/Council officers for the next year were presented: Karla Halloin for President, Jacqueline Strayer for Vice President, Robin Drout for Secretary, and Craig Olsen for Treasurer. There were no further nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to elect the slate of officers as presented for the coming year.

Following the election, the Council expressed its appreciation to Kevin Brown for his service as President over the last several years, and also thanked the Council members whose terms were completed at the last Council meeting: John Burbank, Ellen Dovre, Chris Lindahl, Pat Mertens, and Arla Preston.

- 5. Approval of August Council Minutes:** The August Council minutes were approved as written.
- 6. Approval of August Financial Report:** Craig Olsen reviewed the August financial results. Income for August exceeded expenses by \$2996, reducing the deficit for the first two months of the fiscal year to \$21,984. There were no unusual expenses in August. For September it is planned that \$17,973 of preschool tuition collected last spring for this coming school year, and temporarily held in a designated fund account, will be credited to the operating fund. Craig is in the process of arranging for an audit of church finances. The August financial report was approved as presented.
- 7. Pastors Reports:** Pastor Tom highlighted an item mentioned in Pastor Patrick's written report about a proposal to adjust the time of one of the Christmas worship services to spread out the attendance. This will be discussed at next month's Council meeting. There were no other questions or comments on the written pastor reports for the month.

8. Staff and Committee Reports: Mary Schoenknecht updated the Council on a couple of topics from the most recent Serve Committee meeting: Thanksgiving Baskets and the Christmas Sharing Project (now being organized by the Serve Committee). There were no other questions or comments on the written staff and committee reports for the month.

9. Old Business

- a. Personnel Updates:** Kailyn Dewey has been hired as Digital Communications Lead on an as needed basis. She will work with Trinity's social media including website, Facebook, Instagram, and newsletter. Sue Jensen has been hired as Worship and Music Coordinator for 20 hours per week. In addition to coordinating our various worship and music activities, she will also be responsible for the sound booth and leading the 9:45 a.m. Praise Team. All open job positions have now been filled.
- b. Rental Property Update:** Painting is almost finished. An area of asbestos-containing material was found that will need to be removed or enclosed. Placement of flooring will begin shortly. An October 1 availability for rental is still anticipated.
- c. FriendFest Recap:** There was a general discussion of this year's FriendFest and things which were a success or which could be done differently. Jacque Strayer is creating an online survey form for Council members to give their feedback on the event. She will e-mail a link when it is ready. Robin Drout indicated that a "thank you" to volunteers, organizers, donors, and attendees will be included in the coming Sunday's announcement sheet.
- d. Pictorial Directory Update:** All announced photography dates have been completed, although the possibility of a day or two in October is being explored. More than 250 photo sessions took place out of approximately 560 Trinity households. This is considered a high percentage of participation. Work on the introductory pages to the pictorial directory is underway. It is anticipated that the directory will be available early in the new year.

10. New Business

- a. Sabbatical Update – Pastor Patrick:** Pastor Patrick reported that his just completed sabbatical was an "amazing time that went way too fast." His written report to the Council this month includes a detailed description of his sabbatical. He thanked Pastor Tom for filling in for him while he was gone. Lessons learned from this summer will be put to use next summer when Pastor Tom is on his sabbatical.
- b. Worship Update:** As indicated above, we will discuss Christmas worship times at our October meeting. It was generally agreed that the blended worship service held on FriendFest Sunday (some elements of the traditional service and some of the contemporary service) worked well.

11. Closing Prayer: Pastor Tom provided a closing prayer.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Robin Drout
Secretary