

Holy Trinity United Methodist Church
Love God, uplift people, inspire hope, and grow disciples of Jesus Christ, here and everywhere we go.

Core Team Meeting
November 4, 2019

Present: Mike Huss, Collan Zehnder, Lynnette Dobberpuhl, Darla Bauchle, Pastor Chad Gilbertson, Sharon Saunders, Jeff Erlandson (Finance), Deanna Hawkins, Troy Banitt

Opening Prayer

New Business:

Budget 2020: The Core Team is responsible to seek out and review budget requests and recommendations, and to review with Jeff and Kelly in Finance final numbers and approve Finance budget proposal. Jeff reports that he is missing several ministry team requests. SPRT and Trustees are still in progress. CYF budget is submitted. Other ministry groups' (e.g. Marketing? Hospitality? Worship?) budgets are still needed. These are needed by Nov 19, to be approved at the December meeting.

Looking at the September financial report, the pledged income appears down significantly from the same period in 2018, but there are extenuating factors. For instance, giving through Nov 2018 looks relatively on target with YTD 2019 giving, which indicates maybe some income from another source was applied to pledged giving in 2018. There is also a timing aspect to spending versus income in terms of Outreach, which had a large amount remaining (yet to be distributed) at this point last year. YTD report indicates that approx. \$38,000 more has been spent than taken in so far. Pastor Chad has responded to people who have asked about how to request budgets has told them to request money based on how they want to do ministry, but that those numbers will need to be considered in light of the whole budget, both income and other planned expenses.

Core Team leaders need to reach out to their ministry liaisons to express the urgent need for a budget request for 2020.

Church Survey: Holy Trinity sent out an electronic survey and a paper survey was distributed at services to determine how people in our congregation were leaning in regards to publicly supporting either Traditional Plan vs. Minnesota Methodist approach with a deadline of Oct 31 to weigh in. We have received back 102 completed surveys (approximately one third of the congregation: e-survey 71 vs. paper survey 31.) The results indicate that the 15 people who answered "absolutely not" to affirming Minnesota Methodist would leave if church affirmed MN Methodist, and that 27 would leave if we affirmed the Gen Con Traditional Plan. Thirty people requested more information about the implications of declaring public support for either method. The team discussed the fact that we have not received feedback from the majority of the

whole congregation. The question was raised, do we seek more information right away or do we release the current outcomes and use the discussions that arise to help inform our next steps, and develop our congregational position? Or do we state our public position based on the survey results as received? Do we draft a public statement based on the results received (1s & 2s and 4s & 5s) and offer it when the results are released? It would be helpful to know how churches will be grouped (geographically or by ideology, for instance) to know how we as a church will make our stand. This is the context we as a denomination will be moving forward. Deanna offered to draft a graphic to showing the results of the survey which will be shared in as many ways as we can as soon as possible and Pastor Chad will draft a paragraph outlining for the congregation some of the approaches the General Conference 2020 will be voting on to deal with the fallout of the GenCon19 decision. Pastor Chad will send the Core Team members a link to review the existing Methodist statement and they vote via email whether they support it as our public statement, and if so, will share it with the congregation as an option to be released publicly. It would be voted on at church conference in December.

We need to consider why we are making a public statement, are we doing this for our own purposes or as a way to let our neighbors know where we as a congregation stand (with the Traditional Plan or opposed.) The debate around GenCon19 was very public and without a public statement to the contrary, it may appear that Holy Trinity is in support of the Traditional Plan.

Bread Oven: The patio came to a cost of \$4300 and is now complete.

Streaming: Troy set up a simple camera to livestream to YouTube and it worked at the second service on November 3. As an unpublished link, it cannot be found by the public just searching but anyone with the link can find it. The quality is not quite ready for public distribution, but ready for internal use and continued testing.

Copier: A new (used) copier has been offered by Larry Butler as a donation.

Care Ministry: Ten new people will receive an orientation to become part of the care ministry this weekend.

Outreach: Paula Green will be present at the December meeting to seek options for 2020 missions of the month.

Worship: Collan has suggestions for brackets to be permanently installed for hanging banners and seasonal decorations.

Hospitality: People have signed up for the rest of November coffee hours. Promotion seems to be the key. For Sundays we don't have people signed up, the freezer may have options.

Costa Rica fundraising: Two thirds of team costs are covered through donations, fundraising and Annual Conference support. November mission giving will go to support Strong Missions, and Kathy Nelson is looking into applying for matching funds through Thrivent.

Church Conference: Our annual meeting to review inactive member report, approve pastoral compensation and approve nominations for ministry leadership needs to be scheduled. Additional items would be to approve a public statement regarding our stand on inclusiveness, and potentially paying for windows and ceiling repair and updates through the building fund. December 8 at 11:45 was suggested and approved. Lynnette will let House of Grace know.

Addendum: Due to a delay getting approval for the date from Annual Conference, the items of business at the Dec. 8 meeting will only include inactive member report, approval of leadership and approval of pastoral compensation. A more thorough community discussion of the public statement resulting from the survey will take place after January 1, 2020, at which time use of the Building Fund for improvements will also take place.

Next meeting Monday, December 2 at 6:30pm