

# Holy Trinity Core Team Minutes

02-15-2021

Present: Pastor Chad Gilbertson, Lynnette Dobberpuhl, Collan Zehnder, Carol Ottoson, Brad Wahl, Jeff Erlandson, Tanya Alemu, Mike Huss, Deanna Hawkins

Opened in prayer

**Financial:** (Jeff and Chad) Not a lot of activity to report for the past month, monthly reports will be coming out soon. Chad warned the group that the income/expenses is a little deceptive because a number of mission-of-the-month collections were paid out so the expenses look higher than normal. Collections look very similar to January 2020. It is good that we are reporting monthly to the congregation, but need to be considering a strategy in terms of our reserve fund, setting a bottom line so we can set goals.

In 2020 we took in approximately 180K in pledges (other income not included), which is about 15K/month. Expenses are about 19.5k/month, and the monthly shortfall is about \$3K, or 36K per year. The main way Covid is affecting the deficit is in the “loose plate” giving, which isn’t pledged but is usually collected in weekly offering during in-person worship. Jeff suggested we should set a goal of \$X more we need to get in gifts by September. Deanna suggested looking at the reserve fund and setting a minimum number of months reserve to hold. Chad’s experience is that churches mostly operate with a reserve of at most two-three months, because conventionally church resources should be used in ministry rather than kept in savings. Another consideration of stewardship is to be careful to not make plans for things we cannot afford. There is currently at least \$100K currently in reserve (not including dedicated building and memorial funds). Chad is prepared to talk to our friends and members individually about whether they are willing to increase their giving or donate stock. We have not challenged our people in terms of giving until relatively recently, or communicated as urgently about our financial situation as we need to now. We don’t want to catch people off guard so we must be able to tell the story of why we are currently in a shortfall and how we plan to address this. It was suggested that Chad could pointedly ask for giving during the worship video. Brad asked, how much per person in regular attendance per week would be needed to eliminate the shortfall (three coffees a week?) It was decided that the bare minimum threshold of reserves would be two months’ expenses of \$40, with an honest effort made to stay above \$60K (Deanna moved Carol seconded, all in favor.) This gives staff and ministry leaders the ability to make plans for the next six-12 months.

**Re-Gathering/Covid:** No new messages from the Annual Conference, we are still in the orange phase with high restrictions on in-person gathering. Since we moved out of the red, and the state restrictions have relaxed, we will be opening up the sanctuary from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Sundays for people who do not have access to online worship to come in and view the recorded worship service on the projector screens. There could be a plate to receive an offering (no plate

will be passed) people will need to wear masks and space, but there will be staff or volunteers to make sure masks are available. There will be no indoor fellowship time for now. People will not be asked to reserve a seat at this time, but if numbers exceed the maximum of 50 there will be a reservation system put in place for subsequent services. Outdoor Good Friday and Easter services are planned.

**Telemessaging:** (Brad & Carol) For people who do not have computers, there is a system for downloading audio and letting people listen to it on the telephone. There are programs that people can opt into for texting also. Costs vary, but they found four links to review which will be shared.

**Nelson Revocable Trust:** (Chad & Jeff) Lou and Jean Nelson were former members of our church, who have passed away. They were generous people and Holy Trinity was included in their estate plan to receive \$50,000 in trust. About the time we received notification of this gift, we received a contact from their son Luke, saying there wasn't money in the estate to cover the gift due to extensive end of life care costs for both Lou and Jean. Recently Chad was contacted by Lou's brother who is CFO of the company Lou and Jean owned, who asked if our church would release the trust from the obligation (disclaiming the bequest), otherwise the burden would require them to sell the family business. It was unanimously agreed to disclaim the bequest.

**Youth:** Sunday school and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> age youth groups are going well. There is a lot happening with trying to make resources available at home for families (youth group, Lent and Sunday school) which seem to be appreciated.

**Nuvera:** report coming next month on the need to improve internet and possibly change out phone system.

**CrossForms Immersion training:** (Chad) \$800 for five people in leadership to deepen and enliven ministry at Holy Trinity. 50% of the cost is paid for by the Annual Conference. Training is live, but online, and occurs over several three hour sessions.

**Leadership:** Mike Huss will end his term as Core Team Leader in March. A new leader will be needed and additional people are still wanted for Core Team, Trustees and Staff Parish Relations. Nominations for these roles would be welcomed by Pastor Chad.

March 8 6:30 p.m.