

**Holy Trinity UMC**  
**Core Team Meeting Agenda**  
**3/21/2022**

**Core Team Members:** Jeff Erlandson, Carol Ottoson, Collan Zehnder, Deanna Hawkins, Tanya Alemu, Lynnette Dobberpuhl, Pastor Chad Gilbertson,

**Opening Prayer** – led by Chad (Paula in Ebenezer in Burnsville, Dot in Masonic Home, Deanna’s tutoring person with chronic health conditions.)

Building Fund Investment Recommendations (Jeff, with guest Derek Brinkman from Edward Jones) Edward Jones has strategic product partners (Franklin American MFS JP Morgan) known for high quality, long lasting investments, which they tend to work most with. The building fund investments are at \$218,000 in cash (earning about 0% now that it has matured.) The general fund with 107,000, just about 37,000 in earnings since 2009. The other dedicated funds are invested in the Strategic income Fund which is a high yield conservative mutual fund (meaning it fluctuates more than most conservative funds, but has done well with returns averaging over 4% ). All these funds were started in 2009. The memorial fund dedicated to Music is up to \$7,000 (4,000 in earnings). The trust fund (memorial trusts) started with \$7200 and now \$16,300. As with all investments, buying low is smart, and leaving it until you need to use it, and then endeavoring to sell high. Could invest the building fund the same as the trust funds, (fund of funds, bond fund) but that works in the long, long run. If we want to use money in shorter term, e.g. less than two years, Edward Jones recommends we go with fee based funds which cost .1% percent of account value per month. Diversifying between funds especially dividend funds, which will always yield dividends, will help reduce risk.

We have been slow to reinvest what has matured because of wanting to avoid tying up money in CDs etc. with low interest rates. The immediate plan for capital improvements (as in next two-five years) needs to be assessed, and what does not need to be earmarked for Trustee goals should be put into something with higher yields. If the unexpected happens the money will still be available with penalties.

- Changes to Funeral Meals (Karen Nau) Now that we will be hosting more types of gatherings including funerals. For 20 years Patsy Larson organized the lunches, and for past 10 years Karen Nau has run it. Patsy and Karen have identified issues. 1) all the dishes, utensils, need cleaning. 2) The same people who have always done organizing, ordering, and recruiting volunteers to help and bring food, volunteers to set up and take down tables, all together takes about 25 hours per event. 3) Some volunteers are aging or are no longer at Holy Trinity. They suggest the solution is to have funeral lunches catered and then the only responsibility for Holy Trinity as hosts would be beverages, set up, and clean up. This will result in an added expense for the family. If someone in the congregation would be willing to take the Funeral Coordinator position as a paid position, then it might be possible to keep the position in-house. This position might need backup since funerals are often scheduled quickly. It was suggested that a coordinator keep a file of catering options (perhaps with sample menus and costs with dates and caution that those can change.)
- Finance Team Update (Jeff)
  - February Financial report- no reports this month. The biggest item to consider is how to navigate with the resources that are available that are designated for capital improvements. It is odd to consider building or making renovations when the money is not there for staff,

- but that is the nature of the funds. Hopefully giving will increase, but if not then we need to know what to do. This will be a topic addressed by the full team which will be meeting in April, along with identifying what items/dollar amounts if any from the trustees would be needed within the next two to five years. Need to decide how we define “capital improvement” and how we define “proper use” of the building fund. Is the building fund a building fund or a capital improvement fund, if we never plan to build a building? We need to bring this item to the congregation, have done so in the past for specific projects like the lift, and the painting/flooring, but recommend seeking approval to repurpose the entire fund for general capital, or infrastructure expenses (as defined—e.g. sound system, not staff because although it is important, that is an ongoing expense.). This will help us know how we want to invest the fund because it changes how/when it might be spent. If we need to ask the question of the congregation, need to do it within the next two months (calling a special congregational meeting with approval from Annual Conference and DS.) Deanna and Jeff will draft definitions.
- First full team meeting in April
    - Including trustees, staff parish, Kelly, Jeff, Deanna, and Pastor Chad.
    - Agenda and 2022 projects
- CrossForm Initiatives
    - Reconciling Ministries (Carol/Chad) had a Zoom meeting with Dave Nuckles with experience on how Reconciling went with Minnetonka UMC. Global Methodist Church is planning to launch May 1, 2022.
    - Tools for Racial Justice (Lynnette) anti-racism training, coffee and conversation, concerns about double standards,
    - Yard Signs (Lynnette) Brad
    - Updated Church Directory (Tanya) need Costa Rica mission, VBS, garden, bread oven,
    - Support GED/ESL Learners (Deanna) continuing current work with the older couple (experiencing chronic health issues.)
    - Garden Distribution to Community (Don) no report at this meeting
    - Bread Oven (Tanya) Rene has a team of three to do a deep clean on the kitchen, building a roster of volunteers, planning the pizza event on May 22.
    - Partnership with local school (Chad, tabled)
  - Children/Youth/Families (Lynnette) Tech Table, Mission Trip, Sunday School, Sunday Bus, STORM
  - Other 2022 Action Items
    - Why Videos
    - Vertical Banners at Chancel
    - Trinity swag

**Reminders:**

- Next meeting: April 25<sup>th</sup> in-person