

Holy Trinity UMC Core Team Meeting Minutes: 9/23/24

Present: Tanya Alemu (chair), Paula Green, Collan Zehnder, Carol Ottoson, Lynnette Dobberpuhl, Pastor Leigh Brown (via Zoom), Ardys Sabin (member of HT)

Church Landscaping: Ardys has been planting and caring for the flowerpots at both entrances since the middle of summer. While the church has authorized some funds for this project, she would like to clarify responsibilities and ownership of the pots and potentially the flowerbeds around the signs. She has connected with trustees and is communicating well with them, but feels these areas, which are important signs of a healthy and welcoming community, are not a priority. Ardys is requesting a set budget for seasonal updates. Leigh suggested there may be some memorial money available, and she would rather use that than the general fund or having Ardys paying out of pocket. Leigh would like to create a realistic budget of actual costs, and will be asking Trustees to include this in their budget. Core Team supported setting aside \$300 per year for plants and seasonal items to keep the entrances looking nice. Ardys and Jim Helgerson from Trustees will be meeting to discuss shrubs.

Finance: Tanya Alemu has said she would be willing to take on the role of Finance Chair which has been vacant since August, but would have to give up her role as Core Team Chair. Paula Green volunteered to take on the Core Chair role through the end of 2024 and possibly 2025 if needed to make this possible. Many thanks to them both.

Copier: Tina Chant has prepared spreadsheets comparing four options for copier replacements with a clear choice that would be more affordable than our current plan and provide Holy Trinity with a brand new printer/copier/scanner. We thank her for her work on this project.

Sale of van: The title for the van has not yet been found, and it might be in a safe deposit box. Old National Bank could not tell Pat Green who has the authority to get into our safe deposit box there. Leigh will contact the bank to see if she can get the info, and if that won't work, we will need Kelly as a signer for the account to go to the bank and find out who can get into the safe deposit box as well as who is still listed as a signer on the account. If the title is not in the box, he will go to the DMV as the next plan.

The **basketball hoop** is not up yet, a new and hopefully correct pole is on the way, and Rob Anderson has volunteered to help Pat Green install it.

CYF: We are planning a combined VBS with Glendale UMC and are hoping to schedule a team building meeting with volunteers from both churches, to kick off planning for Camp Firelight to be held the last week of June, 2025. We had hope to host it at Cleary Lake's Pavilion but it would be \$1540 to host it there for four days so will be considering other

options. (Murphy Hanrehan?) Lynnette is seeking three leaders to help run Kids' Church each Sunday. One adult will lead the lesson, one youth or adult will supervise the Nursery, and one youth will be a go-between (a Knight of the Road) to help kids who want to return to the sanctuary, or need to use the restroom, or just assist where needed. Leigh has been trying to bring the youth together during Fellowship Time on Sunday mornings but so far has only had two kids at most. She has received commitments from four to help at the Haunted House on Saturday Oct 27, and is continuing to work to get youth involved in hospitality, and both youth and parents to use the GroupMe app for communication.

FISH Network of Scott County is hosting an event Thursday night to share information about the need for **foster care** homes and ways the faith community can help support kids in foster care, and the families who bring them in. This free event is from 6-8 pm at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church and dinner is included, but an RSVP is needed.

Leadership Institute: Pastor Leigh will be attending this week along with Carol Ottoson, Maia Noer and Lynnette Dobberpuhl.

Fresh Expressions: There are no events on the calendar yet, but Don Oram has gone to lower income apartments approximately 3 times and set up a table offering produce from the garden. He has been well received by residents, given away a lot of food and had some good conversations. The garden seems to be getting close to the end of harvest for most of the produce. There are some concerns about the water being shut off, and some plants dying. The bean yurt has been a success. Next year they are dedicated to improving communication to try to keep pickers and plant tenders engaged. Leigh suggested that over the winter we act on acquiring or making bins to collect produce that people pick during open hours, and signage to make it clear where tools are, where things go, that they can take produce home, etc. We are becoming known as the "church with the garden."

I Team: One Table is confirmed for December 8 (see Sail article) where people will be encouraged to bring their family's immigrant stories. Ellie Krug is presenting via Zoom on Thurs Nov 7 on welcoming LGBTQ++ authentically and Carol is hosting a watch party at her home and serving "build your own personal pizzas". More greeters are needed and this is a fun and easy way to be involved. Leigh is planning to read the Welcome/Affirmation statement during worship sometime soon.

Upcoming events: Haunted House evening 10/26 with BOM pizza, and Fall Fest morning of 10/27 with pumpkin bread, Candy Crawl 10:30-1pm 10/31. Volunteers and participant are needed and welcome!

Shakopee Community Assistance (SCA) and Toy Corner: SCA has been around 12 years serving 250-300 families per year, distributing diapers, clothes for small children and

feminine hygiene supplies for free, for a few hours on Mon-Tue-Thurs, requiring a piece of mail/proof of residency but not income need. They are looking for a space . Volunteers are welcome but not required from from a host organization. They work closely with the Toy Corner which distributes donated toys 6 times a year for a couple of hours each time. They are asking either 1) could we house everything, needing about 1200 sq feet for both SCA and Toy Corner. They would pay for space and with Loaves and Fishes (confirming this), currently pay \$2800 for space. 2) or be a satellite location for a once a week distribution for a couple of hours. SCA also does 1-2 special events for their families each year, that would be outdoors and bring people in. The Core Team asked for clarification on the amount of rent paid for SCA & Toy Corner, if they would consider a two year agreement, what amount of parking is generally needed on distribution days, how quickly would they want to move in, do they carry their own insurance, and what would we need to do to make this arrangement work (in addition to checking with the Trustees for approval. Upon satisfactory answers to these questions and approval by Trustees, Core agreed they would approve the use of the lower level of the parsonage for this mission.

Partnership potential: When members of Holy Trinity were representing the church at Community Fest, the pastor of Spirit UCC talked to Leigh and Tanya about youth group efforts and challenges. They do a CROP walk, and would like to know if we would be interested in joining them next year. There may be other ways and events we could do with them.

Another land consideration: A member of Holy Trinity is expected to propose the sale of a portion of the church's green space (the field) that would not impact the garden, parsonage, or the playground. The Core Team will be sharing that information once it is available.

Signage: this item is tabled for now, but there is a need to discuss updated signs that include the Don Hartley Community Peace Garden.