

Minutes

Council

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

1600 Kanawha Boulevard, East – Charleston, W.Va. 25311

Sunday, September 8, 2019

1. Call to order –The Regular Meeting of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 12:22 p.m. by President Robin **SNYDER**.
2. Opening prayer – Gale **PUKALL** provided the opening meditation and prayer. The meditation and prayer focused on the difference we make in each other’s lives – in this case, the lives of students. Gale **PUKALL**, a teacher, discussed some apprehension she was feeling toward teaching a small but diverse number of students. A colleague reminded her, “There will be some student who will need you” – just as we, through various means of witness, will be that person who someone needs in terms of encouragement, guidance, direction or focus. Laura **KNAUFF** will provide the opening prayer for the Sunday, October 13, 2019, Council meeting.
3. Attendance – Council members attending included:

Council Executive Committee

- Robin **SNYDER**, president
- Emma **BUSSE**, treasurer
- Howard **O’CULL**, secretary

Members

- Laura **KNAUFF**
- Eric **MARTIN**
- Nick **MITCHELL**
- George **MCKINNEY**
- Gale **PUKALL**
- Lisa **WILLIAMSON**

Not Present

- George **SCHWARZ**, vice president (Excused)
- Debbie **FLINNER** (Excused)

- Janet **RICHARDS** (Excused)

Pastor

- Pr. Randolph **RICHARDSON**
4. Minutes - Minutes of the Sunday, August 11, 2019, Council meeting were approved as presented upon a motion made by Laura **KNAUFF**, seconded by Emma **BUSSE**.
Disposition: Motion approved.
 5. Presentation by Chuck Howe. Howe serves as chair of Trinity's Facility/Finance Committee. He made a preliminary discussion of two business matters both of which were finalized under "New Business." The first dealt with remuneration for church custodian James Sikes. The second issue dealt with signage (Elizabeth Street entrance to church parking lot).
 6. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Emma **BUSSE** provided a draft 2020 Budget. In prefacing comments regarding the draft budget, she said giving proceeds for 2019 were slightly behind but, even with that consideration, the church's finances were sound. **BUSSE** discussed various line-items included in the proposed budget, noting a few slight changes in moneys budgeted. **BUSSE** also discussed various investments held by Hilliard Lyons and investment of moneys Trinity received for resolution of the Clara E. Shinn Trust. Another matter discussed related to pastoral compensation guidelines as published by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the West Virginia/Western Maryland ELCA Synod. President **SNYDER** noted pastoral budgetary considerations will be considered at Council's October 13 meeting. President **SNYDER** noted the budget to be presented for congregational consideration will be finalized at Council's October 13 meeting.
 7. Pastor's Report - Pastor **RICHARDSON** provided a brief report of activities from August 11, 2019, to September 7, 2019. In addition to various worship services conducted, Pastor **RICHARDSON** discussed the "Shattered Faith" support group, which Pastor **RICHARDSON** facilitates with Eugenie Taylor (Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center). The group provides support for those who identify with being harmed by churches, clergy, laypersons, constricting dogmas and judgment. Pastor **RICHARDSON** briefly mentioned he is completing research for a paper he is preparing regarding the future of the church couched in terms of "religion" and "spirituality." He is to share the paper at a subsequent Council meeting. Pastor **RICHARDSON** contemplates varied church services which he says may attract persons to experience the Word. Again, he noted Council will receive additional details regarding ideas noted in the paper and ways for implementing these. Several Council members commended Pastor **RICHARDSON** on his approach, noting varied services, formats and locales might appeal to millennials. A copy of Pastor **RICHARDSON's** report, *Activities August 11-September 7*, is appended to the Minutes.
 8. Committee Reports –

- Worship – President **SNYDER** announced Trinity’s annual Agape Feast/Service will be held Sunday, September 27.
- Community – President **SNYDER** noted there was no report of that Committee.
- Education – Lisa **WILLIAMSON** announced there were around 45 attendees for the church’s Rally Sunday. She also described various Rally Sunday activities. Additionally, she discussed the need for “backup” teachers for Sunday School, acolyte training, donation of Sunday School collections to mission work in Belize.

8. Old Business -

- Clara E. Shinn Trust - President **SNYDER** reported matters regarding the Shinn Trust were closed in terms of Trinity’s actual receipt of Trust proceeds. She noted Council, through consensus via electronic communication, agreed she should remain the primary contract regarding Trust matters until otherwise determined by Council and/or the congregation.
- Church Signage – President **SNYDER** reviewed status of efforts to secure church signage (Elizabeth Street church entrance), basing her comments on the Facility/Finance report presented by Chuck Howe. Howe commented regarding East End Historical District restrictions which impact signage and placement and lighting for signage.
- AED Purchase - President **SNYDER** announced the final purchase of the Phillips HeartStart Onsite Defibrillator (HIS), as approved by Council at its August meeting, has not occurred due to some logistical reasons relating to the purchase, including initiating purchase procedures and coordinating these with the church office staff.
- Memorials Policy – President **SNYDER** told Council the policy would be considered at a subsequent Council meeting. Secretary’s Note: For more information regarding Memorial Policy-related matters, refer to Council’s June and July Minutes.
- Trinity’s 100th Anniversary – President **SNYDER** discussed Trinity’s 100th anniversary, mentioning the need to Council and others within the congregation to prepare for anniversary-related activities. Trinity’s 100th Anniversary occurs in 2024.

9. New Business

- Custodian’s Remuneration. Council considered several matters regarding compensation for custodian James Skies.
- 2020 Council – President **SNYDER** noted Council members will be elected at the November Annual Meeting for members whose terms expire December 1. She stated her term and that of Vice President George **SCHWARZ** expire this year.
- Communications – This matter was discussed briefly. Pastor **RICHARDSON** noted Council members and others having ideas for intra- or external communications should contact him.
- December Meeting – Council’s December meeting will be held December 1.

- Repairing of Eaves - Nick **MITCHELL** noted a few facilities repairs having been made recently, including minor repair to church eaves. **MITCHELL** noted the repairs were covered by funds from Trinity's building maintenance and property fund.

10. Next Meeting Date - President **SNYDER** noted Council will meet Sunday, October 13, 2019.

11. Adjournment – President **SNYDER** declared the meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m. upon a motion made by Laura **KNAUFF**.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of Trinity Council

Robin Snyder, President

By

Howard O'Cull, Secretary