

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Congregational Meeting Minutes  
Monday, June 6, 2011, 7 p.m.

- A. Call to Order: Jerry Lauchle at 7:03 pm.
- B. Opened with prayer.
- C. Established a quorum: 68 present (10% of membership).
- D. June 2010 congregational minutes: Ed Peterson motioned; Jean Quinn seconded; all approved.
- E. Committee/Team Reports: Jerry introduced the council members (Jean Ross and Dennis Lorah were unable to attend). All submitted written reports. Stewardship (Aaron Wagner)—noted that we will be continuing the *Unbinding the Gospel* program with small groups and we all need to encourage others to come to Trinity and share our faith and see what God can do. There were no additional comments to written reports.
- F. Leadership Reports: No additional questions regarding the written reports from Pastor Miller, Pastor Price, Jerry Lauchle, or Christina Pillot.
- G. Administrative Reports:
  - a. Weyandt (Treasurer): no additional comments.
  - b. Marla Moberg (Office Administrator) – unable to attend. Jerry Lauchle noted that there are 673 confirmed members, and a quorum is based on 10% of that number.
  - c. Duane Moberg (financial secretary):
    - (1) Presented a snapshot of Trinity’s Financial History; the PowerPoint presentation is included in these minutes.
    - (2) Correction to the Financial Secretary’s Report: Next to last paragraph, the number should read \$35,370 instead of \$44,752 and 10% instead of 12.6% with a projected Total Operating Income of \$320,326.
    - (3) Budget and income peaks occurred in 2008-09 and held its own for the next several years, but the expenses didn’t drop off as much as income.
    - (4) Savings – two accounts (one is in our checking account and other is the building fund). There was a decrease in both savings accounts in 2009-10.
    - (5) Results – benevolence and building fund were removed from the offering envelope in 2008-09. A percentage has been designated for benevolence that will increase yearly, but not this year.
    - (6) Loose plate checks (includes automatic payments from bank accounts) increased.

- (7) Beginning in 2009-10, the budget and expenses have barely increased while income has dropped. By the end of June, our savings account balance will be 1/3 of the 2008-09 balance.
- (8) Expenses track budget by -2%; income tracks budget by -10%. This difference could be made up if an additional \$600 of income were received every Sunday.
- (9) The present problem is that personnel expenses make up a large portion of the budget and it's difficult to cut any more. About 10 years are left on the mortgage with a balance of approximately \$118,000.
- (10) We've lost a couple of givers who have given substantial amounts; it's up to the rest of us to make that up.

H. New Business: 2011-12 Budget – the finance committee recommends that personnel expenses remain the same, but cut back the funds for pastoral professional development. The proposed budget calls for \$4,983 to be put into the building fund and \$5,000 into the savings account to help build them back up. Because the total expenses for Worship & Music increased by less than \$2000 in the current year, its proposed budget is smaller by \$1,004. Bob Bernlohr questioned the amount given to the Allegheny Synod for benevolence. Pastor Miller thought that we were committed to increasing our benevolence contribution yearly until reaching 15% of our annual budget<sup>1</sup>. The motion to approve the 2011-12 budget was made by Lou Mayer and seconded by Jay Aubuchon; a unanimous vote in favor of the motion carried.

I. Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 7:47 pm

Submitted by Christina Pillot and Jean Ross

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<sup>1</sup>After further research Jerry Lauchle notes that the present contribution to benevolence is \$31,500, or 9% of the annual budget. We have reached this level from the 2008-09 level (\$27,500) by increasing our contribution by 3% plus \$8.00 times the number of worship attendees (used 240) to \$30,250 in 2009-10. Then in 2010-11 we increased it by another 4% to \$31,500. This was our commitment to the Allegheny Synod as agreed to by Council on March 25, 2008, when Janet Grassmyer, Synod representative, gave a presentation on the budget goals of the Synod. TLC will increase its benevolence donation in proportion to income increases.

# A Snapshot of Trinity Financial History for the June 2011 Annual Meeting

D. Moberg

## Ground Rules

- The data is assembled to show trends in budget, income, expenses, and savings account balances beginning in 2005-2006 fiscal year
- Data taken from fiscal year summaries
- Year end income for 2010-2011 is estimated for June
- I am considering operating income only: income available to pay any expense
- Do not consider: debt reduction, piano, youth income, yard sale, pass thru, restricted gifts, etc

## Let's Look at Income First

Fiscal Year	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006
Current		266374	279611	307480	242418	242304	220436
Benevolence		0	0	0	22692	20478	21469
Building fund		0	0	0	19524	16521	16158
LP cash		5859	6047	6779	5844	8680	8894
LP check		43347	28845	27514	28505	20479	18678
Sunday School		120	6	10	96	188	356
Seasonal		6019	7806	7906	7891	4796	6039
Msc income		65	500	54	0	0	0
Building use		1038	1265	820	525	405	900
Reimburse.		798	1273	25	84	1125	379
Total	321441	323620	325353	350588	327579	314976	293309

## Examine First Three Lines

Fiscal Year	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006
Current		266374	279611	307480	242418	242304	220436
Benevolence		0	0	0	22692	20478	21469
Building fund		0	0	0	19524	16521	16158
Total							

Combine Current, Benevolence and Building fund into one Current category

Fiscal Year	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006
Current	?	266374	279611	307480	284634	279303	258063
Total	321441	323620	325353	350588	327579	314976	293309

## Let' s Complete the Picture

	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006
Budget	357157	355696	353324	372569	371304	335500	317841
Income	321441 ?	323620 ?	325353	350588	327579	314976	293309
Expenses	346442 ?	345025 ?	342613	365455	315560	294172	303849
Savings	?	10476 ?	24593	37461	22344	67812	46872
Building fund	?	9124 ?	25201	28658	53064	38148	22979

## Results

- Benevolence and building fund were removed from offering envelope in 2008-2009 to leave only current category
- For first year, we remembered to give an amount equal to benevolence +building fund +current
- Income peaked in 2008-2009
- Next two years we forgot and current income dropped but loose plate checks rebounded this year
- As a result, operating income was short of the budget by about \$30,000 in the last two fiscal years

## Conclusions

- Beginning 2009-2010,
  - the budget and expenses have barely increased
  - Last fiscal year and this fiscal year, income has dropped
- By the end of June, our savings account balances will be 1/3 of the 2008-2009 balance
- The Finance Committee can only hold the line on expenses; we have no control over income
  - We do a decent job of forecasting expenses
  - Income forecasting is difficult

## Conclusions cont.

- Have held the line on budget
- Expenses track budget by -2%
- Income tracks budget by -10%
  - \$600 additional income per Sunday would bring income up to the budget ( $\$600 \times 50 \text{ weeks} = \$30,000$ )