

Meeting minutes taken by Jill Barry

Members Present: Kevin Barry, Cal Meuzelaar, John Standley, Laura Kremer, Marjo Jordan, Mary Trasky,
Pastor Polly Standley

Non-voting Present: Jill Barry (recorder), Laura Daniels

Meeting called to order 5:58 PM, Pastor Polly offered the opening prayer.

Agenda approved with addition of New Business item regarding recent visitor Mark (Kevin moved / Marjo 2nd)

Prior Minutes for June were approved (Polly moved/Kevin 2nd)

Written Clergy report for June/July– Accepted (Kevin moved/Mary 2nd)

- Church picnic? Haven't heard from Holy Trinity. Preference seems to be to hold it at Lakeside Park in Caledonia as we have done in the past. Kevin will call and check on availability.
- Two members have requested that we put the smaller Pride flag somewhere by the front door, so that it can be seen from the parking lot side. All agreed that we do so.
- Request from the director of Living Water Ministries (ELCA's camp ministry here in Michigan) for assistance with funding for camp and their "no child left behind" pricing. Discussed, tabled until a later meeting.

Liaison Reports – all reports accepted, including written treasurer's report (Kevin moved/Cal 2nd):

- Property (verbal report from Cal)
 - Bhutanese Garden – we're up to 7 woodchucks and various raccoons and possums live trapped and released in a more congenial atmosphere that is NOT near the garden.
 - Rain Garden – 1st garden is doing well, but we are now watering
 - Parking Lot – currently calling Fricke every week to get the schedule. We have a signed contract, believe it will be done sometime in August, still waiting for proof of liability insurance.
- Community Ministry (written report from Laura K.)
 - Made correction that we are not dropping off the GWOH care kits, but will be shipping them ourselves.
- Hospitality (verbal report from Pastor Polly, with assistance of Laura Daniels)
 - White Caps game – still no word back from Holy Trinity people.
 - Church Picnic
 - Decided on Lakeside Park in Caledonia, where we have done previous services followed by a potluck picnic. We will invite Holy Trinity to join us.
 - Baby Shower planned for Hannah & Andrew T. for Sunday, August 10 during coffee hour. A light luncheon is being planned.
- Worship & Music – (verbal report from Pastor Polly / Jill)
 - Organist Update – Mary Ann developed sudden health concerns that has caused her to quit. A substitute has been found for July 20, as yet uncertain about July 27 when Jill is out of town and unavailable. Jill will plan to play each Sunday (as able) beginning in August while we search for a new accompanist to take Mary Ann's place. If Jill (or another sub) is not available, we will do a spoken service.
 - August 17, Pastor Kate Van Valkenburg, Director of Ministry for United Campus Christian Fellowship, which is an ecumenical local campus ministry with ties to both the ELCA and the Episcopal church, will be preaching (with Polly presiding) and will be available to answer questions during coffee hour.

- Correspondence
 - thank you from Samaritas for \$400 donation from Community Ministry for their refugee program
 - Thank yous from The Green Apple for 3 donations (\$125, \$400, and \$25)

Treasurer's Report (accepted along with other liaison reports)

- Budget has caught up – still doing well
- Discussed where the funds are coming from to pay for the parking lot project. They will at least come partially from the continuing surplus that is being carried in the general checking account. The rest will be a split from both Holy Cross and Ascension investment funds.

Old Business:

- Together West Michigan Membership Discussion
 - Tabled until October
- Audit Committee (Laura D. / Kevin)
 - Will be scheduling a time with John to complete the audit.
- Search Process Update – Cal
 - Whole process has been spirit-led
 - Interviewed 4 candidates (a 5th candidate tried to apply on the last day but was told no); one candidate received a 2nd interview
 - The combined TC/HT Search Committee unanimously recommends that the Rev. Jonathan Bratt Carle be called to a full time position as rector/pastor (half-time at Two Churches, half-time at Holy Trinity in Wyoming), pending approval of the Diocese and the Synod.
 - Cal moved that the Leadership Team accept the recommendation of the Search Committee and then make the same recommendation to the joint congregation of Two Churches (Holy Cross Episcopal + Ascension Lutheran), to be voted upon by the members of Two Churches at a specially called congregational meeting, according to the hybrid process agreed upon by the Search Committee and the Diocese of the Great Lakes. Marjo seconded the motion. All approved.

New Business:

- Synod Bishop Elect installation – will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids on Saturday, September 13th at 4 PM.
- Cal discussed the visitor Mark, and that his family would like to make an effort to help him further (beyond the rental assistance already rendered).

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 6 PM.

The meeting closed with Lord's Prayer, and adjourned 8:41 PM.