

Meeting minutes taken by Jill Barry

Members Present: Kevin Barry, Cal Meuzelaar, John Standley, Laura Kremer, Mary Trasky, the Rev. Jonathan Bratt Carle

Non-voting Present: Jill Barry (recording secretary), Laura Daniels, Deacon Kim Hoop

Meeting called to order 6:01 PM, Rev. Jonathan offered the opening prayer.

Agenda approved with correction of date of Bishop's visit (Kevin moved / Mary 2nd/Passed)

Prior Minutes for October approved (Jonathan moved/John 2nd/Passed)

Written Clergy Report for Oct/Nov (Rev. Jonathan started Oct. 24 with Diocesan Convention) (Kevin moved/John 2nd/Passed):

- Discussed use of Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- Deacon Kim to lead an Advent Book Discussion

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

- Property (verbal report from Cal)
 - Fall Cleanup went well – lots of volunteers
 - Heat Tape issue – tape that keeps melting snow from freezing in the drain from the sanctuary roof was cut and had to be replaced.
 - Roof inspection indicates we will need to replace the roof within the next 2 years.
- Community Ministry (written report from Laura K)
 - St. Mark's Breakfast Café workday coming up Nov. 29
 - Lots of programs currently and upcoming with ELCA's Good Gifts, Two Churches Thank Offering Ingathering, and the Be A Santa to a Senior and Angel Tree programs.
 - Next CM team meeting is Sunday, Nov. 23
- Hospitality (verbal report from Laura D.)
 - Polly is making Christmas cookies for fellowship after the Christmas Eve worship
- Worship & Music – (verbal report from Rev. Jonathan)
 - Kim Hoop is back and will be serving with us as Deacon again
 - Reed will be playing for the Christmas Eve worship which will be at 8:45 PM
- Correspondence
 - A thank you from GIFT

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

- We are still doing well, somewhat ahead of budget. There are some expenses expected by the end of the year, but we expect to end well.
- John presented preliminary budget for 2026, which was discussed. He mentioned that he only has about ½ of the expected pledges back, so he will be making a plea to the congregation to get those in so we can create a realistic budget.
- Bill for the parking lot has been paid.
- Discussed pay changes for staff.
- Discussed potentially purchasing a new lawn mower – Cal will check into pricing/options.

Old Business:

- Together West Michigan Membership Discussion
 - Membership fees of 1% of revenues has been included in the proposed 2026 budget
 - Kevin moved that we join TWM January 1 – Marjo seconded - passed
- Audit Committee (Laura D. / Kevin)
 - Audit has been completed
- Nominating Committee – Update from John and Kevin
 - Co will come on (with John going off); Sally is also willing to serve

New Business:

- Annual Congregational Meeting for January
 - Date set for January 18 (Holy Trinity's will be Jan 25)
 - Must be announced Jan 4th & 11th at service, plus no later than Jan 8th via mail or electronic means.
- Synod Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas will also visit & install Rev. Jonathan on January 18th
 - Installation will be included in the regular Sunday worship service, followed by a fellowship time with Bishop Julie, and then the annual meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 6 PM.

The meeting closed with Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 8:42 PM.