

Core Team Meeting

February 20, 2023

Present: Deanna Hawkins, Pastor Chad Gilbertson, Patrick Rasmussen, Jeff Erlandson, Tanya Alemu, Collan Zehnder, Don Oram, Lynnette Dobberpuhl

Core Team changes: Deanna Hawkins will be rolling off the team and her role as Core Team Chair, which Tanya Alemu will be taking on. Patrick Rasmussen is a new member coming onto Core Team and is taking the role of Finance Chair, as Jeff Erlandson rolls off from that role. We thank Deanna and Jeff for their hard work, and commitment to helping Holy Trinity be a sustainable and Christ centered community.

Soup Supper Sign Ups: Deanna may be looking for a team to help set up, serve, and clean up for Ash Wednesday (trustees are considering, and confirmation class is scheduled for this week and may be willing to switch to next week.) We have soup cooks for at least five of six weeks.

Finance: Current state of giving appears to be good, with three or four people giving their entire pledged giving for 2023 in January. (This can contribute to the perception of increased giving and these gifts should be prorated across the year for clarity.) Property costs are up with maintenance and other increased costs, which are expected to continue.

Reports: The **trending report** forecasts 2023 using assumptions based on the past two years. Plate and miscellaneous (unpledged giving) is projected to be about \$15K. Pledges as of mid-January is \$157,600 which will go up due to a few pledges coming in since then. We had 78 pledging units in 2022, since start of 2023 we have gained two, but lost a net of 25 units, some of which are units that have transferred away from the church. Out of those who have pledged in the past are three who have not pledged or stated an intention of giving, others are giving without pledging which is a new category of unpledged regular giving. Quite unexpectedly HT received a check for \$21K from the IRS, which Kelly is looking into, to find out if there has been a mistake or if we have a reason to believe that we legitimately can keep this amount. Ultimately, we are looking at 75K in the hole, potentially as little as 50K depending on IRS check and other factors.

(Consolidated Balance Sheet) The building fund is at 191K, with 31K from donations and \$160K that was made from sale of property for the roundabout. The \$160K is not available for use even with approval of the congregation, with some exceptions <see book of discipline> Some short term investment of our cash on hand, including the building funds, would be wise considering current interest rates. Interest income could be applied to general operations. The donated 31K could be considered for a repurposing request. Operating fund shows us that if we run at the current rate (-7k per month) we will hit the minimum reserve before the end of 2023.

Finance will be bringing a proposed plan for **short-term investing** of current liquid funds to the April meeting (March if it is available earlier.)

What is most important? In our church community relationships and ministry are the most important things, and we believe giving follows that. While it is important to be transparent on finances and viability of church operations, the concern and focus on it amplifies the uncertainty on the status of Holy Trinity either as a Reconciling Ministry Congregation or not, and how that stand affects who will continue to attend and give. It is as much about concern about the relationships as it is about the money. However, the church's core values and message will not be changing, just defining who are we reaching out to with the message of the redeeming power of Jesus Christ, and the role of the body of Christ (the church) in healing a world that is beset with brokenness.

75% of members voting yes or no on March 5 will pass the vote either for or against adopting the Reconciling Ministry statement and becoming part of the Reconciling Ministry Network.

Next Core Team meetings are scheduled for:

- Monday, March 20
- Tuesday, April 11