

## Holy Trinity UMC Core Team Meeting Agenda 1/22/2023

**Present:** Pastor Chad Gilbertson, Tanya Alemu, Collan Zehnder, Lynnette Dobberpuhl, Paula Green, Patrick Rasmussen

### Opening Prayer - Chad

- Finance Update
  - Pledges and budget for 2024: 60 pledges 202,906, compared to 60 last year for approximately \$31K less. The approved 2024 budget contains a shortfall of \$15,710.87. We cannot pull as much interest off the dedicated memorial and building funds in 2024 as we were able to last year. (Interest on trusts must be used for the dedicated purpose of the trust, and the principal cannot be touched.) Reserves of \$60,000 is untouchable, currently have \$83,900 in reserves. Our current deficit of \$15.7K puts us uncomfortably close to that minimum reserve, so we will be watching that closely with potential decisions needing to be made by mid-year.
  - Update on Setting up the Venmo account – (Tina) We recently added a nonprofit account on Venmo. There is a convenience fee of 1% + \$0.29 for each donation. We need to be clear with donors that donors cannot set up a recurring donation on Venmo, and are not allowed to cover the fee, which may result in the need to increase the cost of material items (books, shirts, VBS registration) to cover them. Vanco also bills HT for the convenience of electronic giving. Even though these convenience fees somewhat diminish what Holy Trinity receives through Venmo, people's statements will reflect the full amount they gave. Venmo will be optimal for occasional online giving, purchase of goods and event registrations, and occasional mission offering, rather than regular pledged giving. Need a couple of paragraphs to explain this and a blurb to accompany the website giving widgets (Tanya). We will share on social media (Lynnette). Need to make slide (Tina) and update voicemail on Venmo phone to direct callers to office #, and send QR code to Tina for publications (Lynnette).
  
- Children/Youth/Families: Watercolor event in December was decently attended but did not allow for much interaction between the children/youth. The Event middle and high school retreat was a great experience with four middle school students, two high school students and two adults from Holy Trinity attending. There were 130 people from 15 churches in attendance at Messiah UMC in Plymouth, where everyone played a life-sized game of Clue, worshipped, had small group discussion, worked on a service opportunity, experienced a Christian rap and spoken word poetry performance by the artist Pierre, and ate pizza. STORM camp this summer will be from July 14-18, and we will be seeking youth to be campers, and youth and adults to support the camp by helping serve food, run audio-visual for worship, sort and assemble tools needed for work teams, and act as ambassadors from Holy Trinity to the homeowners we will be serving. Begin praying now for how God is calling you to be involved!
  
- Northland Offer: District committee had questions for the Offer Review Team (Pastor Chad, Tanya, Patrick, Vic) responded with an updated site plan which was provided by Northland. The Chair of the committee said pending no further info needed there should be a response from the committee by the end of the week. Northland had a question about the parking lot space. They were told that the parking spaces number and green space was critical. Northland may return with an alternative line drawn that would still give us the green space and parking place slots required. Multiple round table

conversations may be scheduled as early as the week of February 5 to get input and answer questions from the congregation leading up to a church conference February 25 for a vote to approve our entry into formal negotiations with Northland with the intent to sign a purchase agreement. Northland is expecting a response by March 15. We would need to retain a real estate professional accustomed to these kinds of negotiations to represent us in the negotiations, which would be paid out of the purchase price.

- I-Team and Fresh Expressions updates: We are approaching our one-year anniversary of becoming a reconciling congregation (March 5.) Want to celebrate and reflect on what has changed, and what hasn't (morning greeters, Flames, monthly inclusion focus, signage, new members). A sign with the updated logo for the front of the church is in process. There was a national meeting today of reconciling congregations on Zoom today in which it was discussed that General Conference 2024 will be taking place in May, hoping for language change to Book of Discipline and possible reorganization into Regional Conferences, then two weeks later the Annual Conferences will meet to vote on the General Conference legislation. There will be a Jurisdictional Conference and a special General Conference in 2026 and a regular General Conference again in 2028. Carol reminded us that we can become reconciling members individually in addition to being part of a reconciling congregation by signing up for free at <https://rmnetwork.org/rum/>.

Fresh Expressions will meet next week to continue discussions around what it means to be a garden church.

- Lakefront Music Fest—Vic Noer and Maia Short have volunteered to coordinate volunteers from Holy Trinity for the LMF, with a request that the funds received from the Rotary be designated for future mission trips. The Core Team agreed, noting that this agreement will be revisited yearly.
- Lent – small groups/ soup suppers: Rene Meyer organizing, suppers start Feb 14 Ash Wednesday, 5:30 worship at 7pm, later Wednesdays will be soup at 5:30 and groups beginning 6:15-7:15. Holy Week the Cantata is tentatively scheduled for Palm Sunday March 24. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are still being planned, and Easter will be a service as usual.

#### TABLED

- Outreach opportunities –
  - 2024 Ideas
    - Emma Norton Games and Book Drive?
    - Fix-It Clinic
    - Others?
  - Building Safety assessment – what to do about this?
  - Bigger online presence – hire a freelance person?
  - Van – should we keep this?
  -

#### Reminders:

- Next meeting Monday, Feb 26 at 6:30.