

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Retreat Minutes
July 23, 2017
Prepared by Bob Nida**

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church Lounge

Present: Larry Faelchle, Pastor Peterson, Sarah Evinsky, Neal Coryell, Steve Mayer, Donna Bowman, Geoff Wilhelm, Emily Godshalk, David Huskey, and Bob Nida.

Absent: none.

Meeting began at 12:35 PM

Minutes: Geoff spoke of the formation of the process of discussing Trinity's mission and how the ministries fit in the mission.

Members broke up into groups to discuss ministries.

Results

President:

Keep Doing: Encouraging/enabling ministries.

Reduce: Has been active in day-to-day finance matters, reduce to supportive role.

Add: One-on-one with members. Onboarding new council members.

Community Ministry:

Keep doing: Expand assistance to people (homeless) who come to our door, add personal hygiene products.

Reduce: Coordinate with other nearby congregations on providing meals on certain days, reduce overlap of services with other nearby congregations.

Add: Diversify projects.

Finance:

Keep doing: Reporting to membership.

Reduce: Reduce the number of donation counters on Sunday. It has been tough to get counters, harder to get 3. We might want to aim for 2 counters.

Add: Providing context to membership for financial decisions.

Worship:

Keep doing: Traditional liturgical worship service.

Reduce: Do not want to reduce anything.

Add: Outreach, Worship for others, potentially the homeless.

Congregational Life:

Keep doing: Fellowship activities and events, this develops membership.

Reduce: Cut the following year activities which are not well attended..

Add: Explore ways to keep families coming back, involve children. Reconnect with members or visitors who have not been to church lately.

Secretary:

Keep Doing: Support communications efforts

Reduce: -----

Add: Contribute to monthly roundup type of communication efforts.

Communication and Evangelism:

Keep doing: Strengthening social media presence.

Reduce: Ineffective communication, like advertising in newspapers, print media.

Add: Temple Talk testimonies during worship.

Pastor:

Keep doing: Educating members and youth.

Reduce: Reduced role to supporting Stewardship, as opposed to driving.

Add: One on one communication/interaction with members and visitors. Add contacting members around their birthdays. Help guide council's actions toward TLC's mission. Enhance lessons through conversations within groups.

Vice President:

Keep doing: Define, strengthen Community Ministry. Pinch-hitting other roles in other's absence or as needed.

Reduce: None

Add: Define role of Vice President.

Spiritual Formation:

Keep doing: Increase participation and engagement, especially with kid's activities. Connect with other people.

Reduce: Pruning events in community that are people intensive, reduce programming overlap with other ministries.

Add: Support for other committees and their engagements.

Observations:

1. Moving to participation from Ministry "done for you."
2. Interests to get people involved vs. committee structure.
3. So many opportunities for collaborations.
4. Engagement is key.

Ministries:

Brainstorming on potential combination of efforts, teams or resources; break down walls or divisions.

Congregational Life, Worship, and Spiritual Formation have a similar and circular relationship. Evangelism supports all of these groups. Pastor said all of these committees are evangelical in their efforts.

Use of building/property in ministry. How does it help in ministry?

Can committee's efforts be combined? A suggestion of Spiritual Formation and Congregational Life working together more closely with each other. Emily mentioned that existing activities need to be maintained.

A suggestion of combining Secretary and Communication.

Rally Day.

Date for Rally Day should be flexible. Rally Day isn't about syncing with school, but communicating the mission. Discussed the potential of combining Rally Day, spiritual formation events and stewardship activities. Geoff suggested meeting before the next council meeting. Current Rally Day planners are Pastor, Steve, Geoff, potentially Emily and Sarah. Date discussed was August 10, 8PM.

Pastor closed meeting with prayer at 3:20PM.