

-UNAPPROVED DRAFT-

Minutes of the Voters' Assembly of Trinity Lutheran Church Downtown Orlando

Oct. 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Wren Aber in the sanctuary following the 11 a.m. service.

Pastor Jeff Moore opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes approval:

- the Voters' Assembly approved the minutes of the June 21, 2009 Regular Voters' Meeting as presented.
- the Voters' Assembly next approved the minutes of the August 9, 2009 Special Voters' Meeting as presented.
- the Voters' Assembly approved the minutes of the August 16, 2009 Special Voters' Meeting with the following corrections: the names of Lance Bell and Leo Nagy were added to the list of Elders voted on and elected. Under the heading Discussion: the word "every" was changed to "everyone."

State of the Parish Report:

Pastor Jeff Moore thanked the outgoing members of the Parish Planning Council and Board for their service.

Membership: He explained the church has many baptisms and weddings and few funerals. The Elders are working on making the membership roster accurate. He said there are 190 members on the current roster that he has never met during his time at Trinity. It is his intention to report membership changes and transfers once the membership records are correct. Initially, the Elders are reviewing those 65 and older and there are 18 unknown individuals. Pastor Reinhardt is calling their last known phone number. A list of the names missing members will be published and circulated to see if other members have new addresses for them. The current count of members is 1,400, including children and 1,080 communicants. Pastor Moore said he believes the "total souls" number to be closer to 800. By years' end, he hopes to have a preliminary list for the congregation and then will be able to give quarterly reports of changes.

Attendance: Pastor Moore said attendance trends have been terrible over the last two years and attendance has dropped. He said he didn't know the reasons. The year before Pastor Ron Fink retired average attendance was 588. Pastor Moore said the year before he arrived average weekly attendance was 500-510. In 2006, the average attendance was 500 and for 2009 it's been averaging 417. "I'm not happy with that," said Pastor Moore. "We all need to be working on that."

He said Pete Krzyzak is working on graphing this information for the Leadership Council and the data will be presented to the congregation in the future.

Urban Ministry: Pastor Moore reported that 200 members worked at the Downtown BBQ and about 1,000 attended with the event breaking even. For the PTL's Touch a Truck event Sept. 19 there were 33 trucks and 1,600 people attended. The PTL raised \$8,000. The Oktoberfest, neighborhood festival, on Oct. 18 had 450-500 attendees and also broke even. The next event is The Season of Gifts on Friday, Dec. 4, from 5-10 p.m. at Lake Eola amphitheater. Derric Johnson, the former conductor of the Walt Disney Candlelight Processional, is the guest conductor. We're contacting local churches person-to-person to recruit singers for a massed choir at the performance.

Selected Ministry Team Highlights: Pastor Moore reported on the progress of OWLS (older wiser Lutherans - 55 and older). They may be taking on some service projects. The Wednesday morning coffee ministry is being well received. Youth Ministry under Megan Meissler's leadership is doing pretty well but needs new volunteers to provide childcare for children of other volunteers, usually 4-5 children. They meet on Wednesday nights and the childcare could also help choir members with children. Anyone interested should contact Megan or Lisa Moore. The faithful newsletter team of three, Robert Trapp, Martha Pfantz and Betty Traugott, who fold and mail the monthly publication, Sunday School teachers and Stewardship team of Tony Ramiz, Dick Eggert and Frank Knoblauch are studying a new book for future stewardship campaigns.

Entry Groups: Many young people are coming to church and church activities. Pastor said he is encouraged by this. His new member class has 11 and many are in their early 20s.

Finance Report: Ginny Ellis, finance officer, handed out financial statements for the month ending September 30, 2009. She said giving is down 25%. Bud Puch asked if he was reading the statements correctly that the congregation is \$131,000 in the red. Ginny said yes and explained she didn't like saying the number out loud. She briefly explained that the congregation was covering expenses by borrowing from dedicated funds. A long-term note payable of \$89,000 is shown on the balance sheet for the borrowing that occurred prior to June 30. In October an additional \$82,000 was borrowed to cover payroll. The congregation had authorized the borrowing at the June 21 Voters' Assembly meeting with the understanding the more borrowing would probably be needed.

Bud Puch made a motion confirming and authorizing the Leadership Council to borrow up to \$100,000 from dedicated funds to cover temporary shortfalls in income to be repaid over a three-year period with interest at the rate that would have been earned by the dedicated funds. Kim Hofmann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Leadership Council Highlights: Omar Dittmer was nominated to be an Elder and he was unanimously elected. Kathy Schumacher was nominated to be the School Board President and she was unanimously elected.

President Wren Aber asked Pastor Moore and Urban Missionary Billy Brath to come to the front of the assembly. He reminded the assembly that October is Pastor Appreciation Month. He said, "While we would like to celebrate Pastor Moore and Billy Brath's accomplishments with a huge bonus check - something they both earn just in overtime alone - we know the economic times don't make that practical. The fact is, both have continued to suffer financial hardships in the hope that their efforts will restore Trinity's growth and community outreach as a beacon for the future."

He suggested the congregation recognize the pastors in three ways:

- o pray for the success of their personal ministries by name every day.
- o where possible, gift a special contribution to Trinity marked "Pastor Appreciation." This will provide a virtual pat on the back by helping fund their ministry programs at Trinity.
- o most importantly, make Pastors Moore and Brath's dreams of outreach a reality by living authentic Christian lives that will attract friends and neighbors to Christ.

Wren Aber reminded the Voters' Assembly that while the financial numbers were disheartening the members should remember that in recent weeks more than 2,500 people had come onto the Trinity campus for free thanks to sponsors and contributors and that was something to be excited about.

The meeting was adjourned and closed by the members singing The Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Aber, assistant treasurer

END