Trinity Congregation Council Minutes
September 15, 2026

Present: Henry Butler (until 5:40 p.m.), Robin Drout, Greg Helgeson, Heather Kapanke, Sarah Lilly, Anne Lindahl, Mary Schoenknecht, Denyse Schroeder, Jacque Strayer, Kristin Walukas, Michelle Zumwalt, Pastor Patrick Patterson, Pastor Tom Westcott

Absent: Lynn Buske, Erik Dovre, Dawn Marcott, Gail Schulner, Craig Olsen

1. **Call to Order:** Vice President Jacque Strayer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. **Devotion:** Jacque Strayer provided a devotion based on Romans 14.

3. **2026-2027 Council – Member Introductions, Installation Sunday, Devotions Sign-up:**
   - As this was the first meeting for three new Council members, Jacque asked for everyone to introduced themselves.
   - Pastor Patrick announced that on Sunday, September 27, Council members and other Trinity volunteers will be commissioned at the 8:15 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. services. Council members who are available should plan to participate at one of the services.
   - Jacque circulated a signup sheet for leading the devotion at the start of Council meetings for the coming year.

4. **Election of Officers:** Nominees who have agreed to serve as Congregation/Council officers for the next year were presented: Jacque Strayer for President, Kristin Walukas for Vice President, Robin Drout for Secretary, and Craig Olsen for Treasurer. There were no further nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to elect the slate of officers as presented for the coming year.

5. **Approval of August Council Minutes:** The August Council minutes were approved as written.

6. **Approval of August Financial Report:** Pastor Patrick reviewed the August financial results. Income for the month was $93,631 and expenses were $81,901, resulting in a surplus for the month of approximately $12,000. Expenses for the month were lower than average and income benefited from the transfer of approximately $19,000 in preschool registration payments (made last spring, but for this fiscal year) from a dedicated holding account to the general operating account. Fiscal year-to-date we have a deficit of approximately $13,000, which is not unusual for this time of year. Pastor Patrick indicated that income and expenses are the figures we pay the most attention to each month, although the budget still represents what we would ideally like to achieve during the year. When asked how spending is adjusted if the budgeted income is not achieved, Pastor Patrick indicated it can take the form of delaying filling a vacant staff position if one is open, or delaying certain budgeted expenses. Pastor Patrick also mentioned that the Council packet this month included a statement for the Lexington Blvd rental house repair loan that we took out last year. This statement is being added to the other financial reports the Council receives

because the loan balance did not appear in any of the other reports. The August financial report was approved as presented.

7. **Pastors Reports:** Pastor Tom pointed out that his written reports this month included one for his recent sabbatical. When asked if the sense of awareness and presence he practiced during his sabbatical has carried over to his normal pastoral activities, he indicated that he believes it has to certain extent. Pastor Patrick commented that the air conditioning in the food pantry area is still not working as the contractor is waiting for additional parts. There were no other questions or comments on the written pastor reports for the month.

8. **Staff and Committee Reports:** Pastor Tom pointed out that Kim Dewey indicated in her preschool report that the State Child Care Counts Grant Program has ended. This represented $10,000 to $12,000 of income for the preschool each year. There were no questions or comments on the written staff and committee reports for the month.

9. **Old Business:**

   a. **FriendFest Recap:** The Council reviewed last weekend's FriendFest, which was deemed to be very successful.
      - We pretty well used up the food purchased for the event. Suggestions were made for adjustments for next year. Approximately $880 in free-will donations were received for the food, which should cover the food cost.
      - One problem experienced for the event was with the tent, table, and chairs rented from A-1 Rental. Despite having a contract and having paid for the rental, A-1 failed to deliver the items and setup the tent. Fortunately, Trinity member Kirk Gunderson, owner of Rock N' Roll To Go, was able to provide tents, tables, and chairs at the last minute. Kirk also provided our kids games / inflatables through his other firm, Wisconsin Fun Factory. It was recommended that we use Kirk's companies for all the arrangements next year.
      - The dessert auction went well. We raised over $1700 for the Trinity food pantry.
      - Any Council member with specific documentation for this year's FriendFest or recommendations that should be considered for next year's event is asked to send the information to Robin Drout. He will assemble a file that can be passed on to those working on next year's event.
      - A tentative date of Sunday, September 19, was selected for next year's FriendFest, subject to change based on the Packer and Vikings game schedules for the next fall.

   b. **Worship Center Technology Capital Campaign:** This is a topic first discussed at last month's Council meeting.
      - The sound and video equipment in the Worship Center is both outdated and worn out. The current equipment dates from the Worship Center addition and remodeling in 2004. The estimated cost for replacement is approximately $175,000.
      - Preliminary discussions by the Exec Comm identified other potential capital needs including: air conditioning for the music room (former chapel area), installing a water wall feature in the Worship Center lobby originally proposed for the 2004

construction project, and organ rehabilitation (a potentially $350,000 plus project with a 2-to-3-year lead time once contracted).

- It has been suggested that any capital campaign should include a 10% amount to be used for outreach, such as local needs or the Jabneh Academy classroom building reconstruction in Jamaica.
- We need to form two committees to explore and plan a potential capital campaign: (1) a small committee to work with Pastor Patrick and Sue Jensen to organize the campaign and serve as a sounding board for the campaign's scope, and (2) a second committee to solicit initial donors to get the campaign started. Potential members for these committees were discussed. Kristin Walukas volunteered to represent the Council on the first committee to establish a scope and timeline. That committee's plan will need to be brought back to the Council for approval. It was suggested that this committee's plan needs to come back to the Council before the end of the year so that we can keep things moving.

10. New Business:

a. **Committee Structure Revamp:** The Council has been reviewing the movements of Trinity's Vision Statement, which was adopted in 2021. The last movement (discussed in August) envisions organizing Trinity's committees around the five baptismal promises. These committees have been implemented with varying degrees of success:
   - Live: Active early on, but less so now.
   - Listen: Not implemented.
   - Proclaim: Not implemented.
   - Serve: Very active.
   - Strive: Active.

   It has been suggested that the proposed mission of the Listen Committee to consider both education (CYF) and worship activities might be too large, and that moving the worship activities to the Proclaim Committee might be workable. In addition, it has been suggested that the five committees might benefit by having a member of the Council as a liaison. Both these ideas seemed generally acceptable to the Council. Pastor Patrick is in the process of drafting a revision to this movement of the Vision Statement and will present it to the Council for approval.

11. Closing Prayer: Pastor Patrick provided a closing prayer.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Robin Drout
Secretary