

St Matthew Trinity (SMT) Lutheran Church
Hoboken, NJ
Annual Church Congregation Meeting
June 2, 2019

With an attendance of 30 congregational members a quorum was met. President Dan Stoll called the meeting to order at 11:35am. A booklet of reports having been distributed to the members; Dan requested that those with written reports discuss highlights of same during the meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Gary noted these highlights of his report –

- Call process –
 - Pastor explained that Bishop Bartholomew has extended Pastor Gary's interim synodical call to SMT to two years, primarily due to Pastor's separation from his husband the end of January.
 - Pastor Gary pointed out that a call to SMT should not be what he wants, but what is good for SMT
- Campus ministry
 - Pastor thanked Angel for all his work as Campus Ministry Director and noted that the reason his position ended, was due to lack of funding, i.e. SMT's campus ministry's grant ran out
- Birthday collection
 - Pastor thanked the congregation for their contributions to his "surprise" birthday gift. With the funds he replaced the broken garbage disposal in the parsonage.
 - Pastor suggested that there be another "surprise" gifting for the celebration of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of his ordination. The funds collected will go to repairs to the steeple clock.
- Social ministry
 - Pastor hopes for an expansion in LTM – both in hours of service and awareness reach out to the community
- Worship
 - Pastor would like to make the worship service more dynamic, i.e. a more boldly singing of hymns by the congregation. Pastor noted that hymn singing was initiated by Martin Luther,
- Teen and young adults
 - Pastor requested any congregational assisting member(s) would like to offer him

Mark thanked Pastor for his service during this rough time in his personal life. Dan joined in his appreciation of Pastor's work with him and SMT. The congregation responded with unanimous applause.

President's Report: Dan noted these highlights of his report –

- First he thanked former Council Presidents for their assistance. He thanked Carol for her stellar job as Treasurer

- LTM
 - Dan introduced the idea of doing a “LTM Dinner” in the fall. This will allow members who work 9-5 and are interested in LTM assist in preparing and serving dinner for our guests
- SMT Center Dan introduced Rob Hegedus, the SMT Center architect. Rob presented
 - First that the proposed changes to the space passed the Hoboken Historical Committee
 - Proposals for the outside and compared them to pictures of similar buildings on Washington and a picture of the space as “The Open Ear” from the 1070’
 - sand inside of the space (as noted on the inside cover of the booklet of reports) and blue print of the interior
 - Rob noted that basically the building is being gutted
 - The bathrooms will remain where they are but will be completely renovated. There will be one wheel chair accessible bathroom
 - Rob hopes to have the remaining city approvals completed by mid June and work, once started to be completed in 3 months.

Mark noted that he is helping to relocate the groups who presently use the space, keeping as many as possible on other SMT properties.

Dan noted that a Use Committee has been established, which is working on groups that might use the renovated space – music events. Schools, other groups, continuing the use of the present AA groups.

Music Ministry: Richard noted these highlights of his report –

- Richard thanked everyone in the congregation who sings in the choir, acts as cantor, plays an instrument, rings bells.
- Richard noted that he has finally found someone who can make the necessary repairs to the organ and who understands the instrument and the church’s budget restrictions
- In celebration of Richard’s 50 years as a church organist he is staging a concert next Sunday (Pentecost) at 1:30. All are invited and to bring friends.

LTM: Spike noted these highlights to his report –

- First Spike thanked the congregation for all their support to LTM, noting that when he announced a need for supplies, Monday morning they were suddenly there
- Spike noted that monetary donations are also up
- As well as the numbers of volunteers who cook and serve and clean up
- Spike introduced two new programs that are now going on at LTM – a knitting class and a guitar class, in addition to the ongoing arts classes. These programs help the morale of the LTM guests.
- Spike was proud to proclaim that unlike other social ministries, LTM is a place where guests can be themselves.

Youth Ministry: Bernadette noted these highlights to her report –

- Bernadette noted that the move of Sunday School with nursery to during service, with Stevens Students as instructors, seems to be working and should continue in the fall

- She noted that she is stepping down as director of Sunday School and asked for volunteers to step up to this rewarding vocation

Amy asked if there will be confirmation and first communion classes this year. Pastor responded that he is compiling lists and agreed with Amy that working with another parish to increase class size is a good idea.

Property: Mark noted these highlights to his report

- Mark noted that half of the church's income comes from property rentals
- He asked the congregation to look over his list of Challenges as noted in his written report

Hospitality and Altar: Leslie thanked everyone who volunteers for hospitality and assists before, after and during service as noted in her written report.

Stewardship: In Terri's absence Dan noted these highlights to her report –

- We are closing in on our \$200,000 goal for the SMT Center
- While also noting that members need to remember stewardship to the church itself

Social Media: Courtney noted these highlights to her report –

- SMT now has active followings on FaceBook, Twitter and InstaGram
- Courtney thanked Jenn for her wonderful photos

Treasurer's Report: Carol noted these highlights to her report –

- Carol introduced the Finance Committee – Pastor Gary, herself, Dan and Melissa and noted that they meet monthly.
- She noted that Quick Books is slowly becoming more usable and helpful
- Carol thanked all those who have pledged, which helps in budgeting for the church, and to those who follow through and give
- She thanked Melissa who has taken over the task of working with CCB from Bert
- Finally, she thanked all those who help with counting offerings

Pastor noted that quarterly statements are ready and in the narthex for folks to pick up after the meeting.

There was some discussion the church is operating at a \$20 – 30,000 deficit. Joseph pointed out that increased revenues from the new SMT Center should help to decrease deficit spending. Carol noted that utilities were higher than usual this winter, especially oil heat. Amy asked if solar panels might be appropriate for the church. Kurt noted that he has a connection in the solar world and will pass contact information to Dan

Budget: Dan offered the 2019/20 budget as presented in the book of written reports –

After some discussion Amy moved that the budget to accepted, Leslie seconded, the motion was unanimously carried.

Amy asked if there were new members to the Church Council. Dan noted that we were proceeding with the present members, as we were only losing one representative, Ken. But he invited anyone interested in serving on the council.

All business being discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm

Respectfully submitted

Leslie A. Neve

Council Secretary