

TUMC Board Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2023

Present: Tino Herrera, Blaine Proctor, Margie Richcreek, Roger Taylor, Antonio Byrd, LaVonne Meyer, Susan Grotewold, Rudy Breland, Amy Christenson, Karen Mitchell, Suzanne Fischer, Tiago Donato
Guest: Mary Allison Joseph

After a delicious lunch prepared by board member Susan Grotewold, Pastor Tino Herrera opened the meeting with a prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

Operation Manager Mary Allison was asked to explain her proposal which is-

To make way for incorporating responsibility for the Justice Ministry into Trinity's staffing structure by transitioning trained volunteer teams to take on some church maintenance and ministry work.

After answering questions, Mary Allison excused herself along with Tiago Donato to allow the board to discuss the proposal. A healthy debate ensued with the board voting 8-1 to accept Mary Allison's proposal: Susan Grotewold moved that the proposal be accepted with a re-evaluation every six months. Margie Richcreek seconded the motion. Blaine Proctor moved to amend the motion to read that the salary be paid out of the general budget starting June 1, 2023. Margie Richcreek seconded the motion. Both motions passed.

Update on Cohort: Blaine Proctor reported that the speaker for the meeting spoke about mindsets and mental models. He said there are 3 key mental models for positive momentum.

1. Growth vs fixed mindset
2. External (looking out at the community) vs internal orientation (looking only inward at the congregation)
3. Future vs past (remember when)

Blaine explained that the Trinity group has tweaked not changed Trinity's mission statement from 'seeking' to 'daring': A joyful people daring to live out God's inclusive vision of justice, love, and reconciliation in midtown Kansas City.

The cohort will present the mission statement to the congregation for their approval.

Pastor Tino's added that in May his sermons will include defining the words from the mission statement, e.g., justice, inclusive, love.

Finance Report: please check the board reports email Suzanne sent out.

Trustee report by Roger Taylor:

As soon as the weather warms up, Russ will test the air conditioning system. It needs to be close to 80 degrees to start the cooling tower. The units for the classrooms, office, and parlor are ready to operate. We are looking into getting the floors in the fellowship hall stripped and waxed. We would like to have them done for the fifth Sunday potluck. After they are waxed, they should be easier to clean.

Trinity Justice Task Force Report by Margie

Justice Task Force and Trinity - continuing our conversation...

- On Mon, March 20, I forwarded at NY Times opinion on poverty - "Poverty in America Makes the Rich Richer" by Aaron Retica
- It included a recent essay by Matt Desmond, author of EVICTED and POVERTY IN AMERICA, saying, "The hard part isn't designing antipoverty policies or figuring out how to pay for them, it's ending our addiction to poverty." (People in poverty are continuing to be exploited.)
- We agreed that the JTF efforts with our community partners have always come back to this underlying issue of systemic poverty in the KC region
- As we consider our vision for JTF and the people of Trinity consider our overall vision, where do our visions of justice converge? How does JTF embrace Trinity's justice vibe?
- Is poverty the point of convergence?
- In March we talked about learning what other passions (besides those of our community partners) the people of Trinity embrace and the effective strategy of having "one-on-one" conversations. The timing for Ed Kail's training session will coincide with Tino's sermon series about "Trinity's DNA"
- JTF facilitator update -
- In March, I asked Mary Allison if she might be interested in "taking the baton" as facilitator and she presented a proposal for doing so to the PPRC (Pastor Parish Relations Comm)
- At the March Board meeting, the PPRC made a brief report to introduce the idea with no recommendations
- Our discussion tonight included pros and cons of paid staff leading a ministry - something Trinity has not been able to afford as far back as any can recall
- These ideas will be discussed as part of JTF's vision as well as the Trinity Vision Cohort's Updates from our community partners ...

MORE2 - David

- two recent training/information sessions have focused on the 2000x22 campaign creating awareness among 44,000 KC voters about Local Control of the KCPD
- Trinity has two and needs six more Ambassadors to fulfill our commitment made at the MORE2 Public Meeting on Feb 23
- Tino has agreed to a 2-minute plea during announcements on April 16, and Suzanne has written a script that hits the high points of the campaign and asks for Ambassadors to sign up for the next training
- Seven have agreed to participate by holding significant signs - Antonio, Amy C., David, LaVonne, Roger, Avis, and Margie
- Margie and David will be at the two exits to answer questions and hopefully sign up 6
- We understand this is a year-long voter education effort that will result in MORE2 presenting the support of 44,00 voters to KC City Council for them to consider legislative action in Jefferson City.
- We'll want to be there, too!! (MBR editorial comment)

Jobs with Justice - Loren

- Sign the petition supporting a strong community benefits package in any contract the Royals MIGHT prepare/present IF they build a new stadium in KC [Petition \(moworkers.org\)](http://www.moworkers.org) or www.moworkers.org
- This package would include, among other things: union neutrality, jobs, living wages, and housing - providing opportunities for the people who work there to live there

- Also supported by Stand Up KC and MO Workers Center
- KC Tenants -
- Celebrated on election night because every candidate endorsed and campaigned for made it to the General Election on June 20
 - Supporting residents at The 460 and The New Yorker apartments who are at risk of displacement by Mac Properties
 - This includes three of Trinity's congregants who have received lease non-renewal notices so Mac can renovate and raise the rent.
 - The New Yorker tenants received notices on March 22 and were only given until April 30 to move out. They have organized and, as of today, have issued demands publicly. Here's the sign-on letter bit.ly/NYerunion so we can join this action.

MO and KS Legislatures - Margie and Loren

- We need two pages (for MO and KS) of updated information about the status of bills in the House and Senate and suggested actions

A word from Tino

- Last week Trinity's Vision Cohort asked everyone to share three words that describe Trinity's vibe
- The words varied but always included "justice"
- So he wants JTF to keep connecting with the congregation - awareness of the variety of opportunities in which to be involved if one hears something that "grabs" them

Petition: Karen Mitchell reported that Bishop Farr has signed our petition to change the policy on LGBTQIA in the Book of Discipline.

New Business:

Susan Grotewold was concerned about lack of inclusive language especially in the hymns. Tiago Donato explained that any change to a copyrighted song would be a violation.

Suzanne Fischer directed her new business to Dr. Antonio Byrd who had explained what his Sunday School class came up with after studying "How to Fight Racism" by Jemar Tisby. One was to join with another church to celebrate Juneteenth. Suzanne reported that the church she checked with does not celebrate that. She also has been trying to find information on Trinity land regarding land acknowledgment. Dr. Byrd gave her a website to research. (Native-land.ca)

Karen Mitchell said that the Avondale church wants to join us for a table at the Pride festival.

Next board meeting: Sunday, May 21, 2023

Meeting adjourned.