

COUNCIL RESTRUCTURING IDEAS 2021

Notes from conversation with Pastor Jonathan Vehar, SD Synod Council Secretary, 10/12/20:

- We have a really big council, esp. for a church our size.
- Our Constitution/Bylaws don't distinguish what defines a standing committee.
- Advised that if we modify the Bylaws at some point, we add a title "Standing Committees" (would be at C13.07.something...)
- The trend for churches is definitely not expanding councils but decreasing their size.
- If we want to make a bigger restructure to the council, good to first do a couple public forum meetings where we ask, "How is our structure working for us?" And then give a couple of options. Good to come from the viewpoint of asking, "What helps us serve the church better?" It's about being strategic in our structure, not just doing it because we've done it this way for awhile. We can evaluate how the size of our council may be helping or hurting us at this point.
- It's hard to piecemeal this type restructuring, so better to do it in a big way. HOWEVER.....
 - Our Constitution does NOT stipulate the number of council members. So, we may be able to combine committees. It's much easier to change Bylaws than the Constitution.
 - We could combine committees and have sub-committees/steering committees/task forces/ad hoc committees under those to do the ministry work.

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Some ideas for combining committees:

- Education + Youth
(rename: Faith Formation – would include Youth & Family and Christian Education teams)
- Fellowship + Welcome & Outreach
(rename: Welcome & Caring or Welcome & Community – focus on hospitality and caring ministries*)

OR combine Fellowship, Welcome & Outreach, AND Visitation to include oversight of:

- 1) Fellowship/hospitality on Sundays
- 2) New member welcome
- 3) Visitation to homebound/nursing home residents
- 4) Card makers (expand to include card sending ministry?)

- 5) Prayer shawl
- 6) Prayer Chain ministry
- 7) Freezer meals?
- 8) New baby ministry
- 9) Narthex welcome "center"

- Finance + Stewardship
- Rename Social Concerns committee as Mission & Outreach? (not combining committees, but expanding the scope of ministry >> the focus is building relationships within the community, plus building awareness of and giving to local, synod, national, and global ministries.
- Move from 10 to 6 Committees:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Faith Formation 2) Finance & Stewardship 3) Mission & Outreach 4) Properties 5) Welcome & Caring (or Welcome & Community) 6) Worship & Music 	OR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Faith Formation 2) Finance, Admin, and Properties 3) Mission & Outreach 4) Stewardship & Giving 5) Welcoming & Caring (or Welcome & Community) 6) Worship & Music
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- We would continue to have *ministry teams* (e.g. Fellowship/Hospitality Team, New Member Team, Youth Team, etc.) with team leaders or co-leaders.

TEAM examples:

Faith Formation

- Christian Education
- Youth activities

Finance & Stewardship (or Stewardship & Giving)

- Finance
- Stewardship
- Trust Fund

OR....If Finance, Admin, & Properties....

- Finance
- Properties
- Admin?
- Trust Fund

Mission & Outreach

- Mission & Outreach
- Freezer meals?
- Quilters?
- ZWLC?

Properties (if not in Finance, Admin, & Properties)

Welcoming & Caring / Welcoming & Community

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ○ Fellowship/hospitality | ○ Narthex welcome “center” |
| ○ New member welcome | ○ Men’s Group |
| ○ Visitation | ○ Book club |
| ○ Card makers | ○ Van drivers? |
| ○ Prayer shawl | ○ Table of Plenty? |
| ○ Prayer chain | ○ ZWLC? |
| ○ New baby ministry | |

Worship & Music

- Worship & Music
- Altar guild
- Van drivers?
- Lectors
- Tech team (PPT, sound board)

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*** A great example of a “Congregational Care” committee from a Presbyterian church that’s smaller than Zion** (<https://trinitytr.org/ministry/congregational/>):

Congregational Care

The purpose of this committee is to coordinate the ministries of caring for members of the Trinity family. The following are synopses of the various subcommittees. Please contact one of the committee chairs if you are interested in giving time to one of these important ministries at Trinity!

New Member Ministry: Each new family who joins the church receives a visit from a member of the committee. This visitor takes a packet of information about the church, a small homemade gift, and is available to answer questions as well as extend a hand of fellowship.

Trinity Care Team: The Trinity Care Team provides a way for our congregation to respond to the short term, real-life needs of individuals and families. This team is a group of volunteers working together to offer practical, emotional, and spiritual support to those in need.

Shut In Basket: Christmas – Following the annual Presbyterian Women Christmas breakfast, baskets of homemade cookies, candies, and other treats are assembled and are then delivered to shut in members and friends of Trinity.

Shepherding: The mission is to plan, implement and evaluate a program that ensures each member receives spiritual, emotional and social support from another church member.

Card Ministry: Sending cards to people with various needs (sickness death of a loved one, etc.) or with various joys (marriage, births, healing, etc.) This outreach is usually to people within our church body and the cards will include God's Word of affirmation, consolation, comfort, and encouragement.

College Student/Military Ministry: Contact is made with these Trinity members regularly, and we often send care packages as well as including them in our regular prayers.

Servants on Standby: Your Congregational Care Committee is trying to meet the need of several of our homebound members who would like to attend church on Sundays. These are members who have no transportation. We would attempt to assign you someone as close to your residence as possible. Contact the chair of the committee for more information.

Meals Ministry: There are three components of this ministry:

Meals that Heal: Families who have long term needs are provided home cooked meals regularly (weekly or bi-weekly). Presently, three families are receiving these meals. Members of the committee attempt to be aware of any family who may need to be added to this list.

Welcome Home Meals: When a church member has been hospitalized for over three days and the food coordinators are aware of the hospital stay, a home cooked meal is provided to the family when the patient returns home. A meal is also provided to each new mother even though her hospital stay is shorter.

Bereavement Meals: In the event of the death of a church member or the spouse or relative living in the home, we provide a meal for up to twenty people. The family may prefer to have a reception following the funeral in the church social hall. In that event, a simple reception will be provided.

Prayer Ministries: Trinity has three formal prayer ministries and one Sunday School class devoted to prayer.

Prayer Chain: In a long-standing Presbyterian tradition, the ladies of the church (and a few men!) form a Prayer Chain and have agreed to pray for the concerns of the congregation. These concerns are sent via email or telephone to participants, and these prayer warriors have agreed to pray confidentially for these concerns.

Daily prayer list: Members of the whole congregation are invited to pray for one member or family each day of the week. These names appear in the church bulletin announcements each week.

Semi annual Prayer Vigil: Twice a year, the Session opens the sanctuary for a Prayer Vigil, which lasts 12 hours, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., during which volunteer participants come into the sanctuary to pray for general concerns and the written prayer requests of the congregants. These prayer requests are solicited for several weeks in advance of the Prayer Vigil.

Flower ministries: Trinity has two flower ministries:

New babies are celebrated with a single rose in a bud vase in the sanctuary on the Sunday nearest the new birth, which is then delivered to (or taken by) the proud parents.

Hospital: Members who are hospitalized for more than three days receive a small arrangement of flowers to cheer them during their hospital stay.