

Trinity Lutheran Church Strategic Plan FY 2015-2017 Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Strategic Plan and why do we need a strategic plan?

A strategic plan serves to communicate our goals, actions needed to accomplish those goals, and other key elements supporting the success of an organization. Strategic planning for Trinity provides the framework for the long-term direction of our ministry to God. It ensures that our decisions and actions align with our mission and vision for Trinity in an efficient and effective manner.

Who decides what initiatives and priorities are included in the Strategic Plan?

In accordance with our governing documents, Congregation Council is responsible for approving and monitoring the strategic plan. To maintain transparency, the Council through our Strategic Planning Committee solicited input in developing the plan, publishes periodic progress reports on the website, and reports on progress of the strategic plan at the annual meetings.

Can Council approve a specific project or initiative outlined in the strategic plan?

In accordance with our constitution and by-laws, Council is not permitted to approve certain actions or decisions without approval of the congregation. These actions include, but are not limited to, issuance of debt over \$50,000 which likely would be associated with a capital campaign, and also the sale or purchase of real property.

If and when Council has pulled together sufficient information to present to the congregation for approval of a particular capital project, a special congregational meeting will be called.

Why is a building program needed now or soon at Trinity?

A building program can support our ministries into the future by assuring that physical plant and space is in order. It also maximizes the opportunities for our ministerial needs to ourselves and the communities we serve. Addressing structural issues and modifying facilities to maintain and expand our ministries is the goal of such a program.

~OVER~

Published 1/24/2016

Trinity Lutheran Church

Strategic Plan FY 2015-2017

Frequently Asked Questions

What decisions have been made regarding construction projects to maintain, renovate, or improve our facilities?

NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE to proceed with any aspect of the Property Committee's facilities improvement master plan as called for in the strategic plan. Engineering structural reviews and potential design and architectural plans have been requested for the steeple and parking lots. Several architectural firms' designs, as requested through an RFP process, are under review for master planning, but no decisions have been made and no contracts have been let. (Specific task forces will be named to address these matters.)

To date the Finance Committee, as affirmed by Council, has approved \$40,000 for the design of parking lot upgrades and \$60,000 for analysis and preliminary design to address our structurally deficient steeple. (Monies borrowed from ourselves with payback to begin in 2017). Of this amount, \$7,000 has been spent to date.

What is a Master Plan?

A master planning process contemplates potential architectural design options to support the intended ministries and programs. Once developed, the master plan in conjunction with financial planning guides the defining of priorities for potential future capital improvements in alignment with the strategic plan. A master plan, similar to a strategic plan, is a living document that is revisited periodically to ensure it aligns with the mission and vision of an organization. Once a project or phase is defined, the architect would be engaged to complete architectural drawings.

Will any construction or renovation projects be approved without congregational input or approval?

Absolutely **NOT**.....other than as stated above and not to exceed \$50,000 as is our conventional practice per our governing documents.

How can we move forward with a renovation or construction project when we have concerns about meeting our operating budget?

The operating budget provides for the basic operations – staff, building and ministry support. Trinity has been fortunate to have an operating surplus each of the past few years (excess of receipts over expenditures). Additionally, our congregation has historically been generous and “stepped up” to cover any operating shortfalls. Not unlike the decisions we may personally make regarding improvements to our homes, there are times when it is prudent to invest in the future in order to stay current and relevant or to “fix” and make more functional building and property matters. Pursuing any necessary construction or renovation project supported by a capital campaign can ensure that our physical space and our financial commitment will be relevant to our ministries for the future.