

**St. Mary's Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting**

October 15, 2009

Present:	David Buggs	Randy Hansche	Janet Schoettler
	Barbara Campbell	Marilyn Jensen	Andy Schroeder
	Sharon Corso	David Mielke	Steve Seymour
	Kate Dischler-Noreen	Gail Musolf	Ken Winkle

Pastor David Raben
Jerry Willing

Not Present: Laura Dietrich, Dennis Eirich, Jon Svatek

Call to Order: Council President, David Mielke, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions: Sharon Corso and Pastor David led the evening devotions with small groups discussing "Vision Reflections."

Congregational Forum: No speakers were present.

Approval of October 15, 2009 Agenda: Motion made to accept with corrections and additions. Seconded and passed.

Approval of September 17, 2009 Minutes:

Motion: Sharon Corso

Second: Ken Winkle

Passed

Financial Secretary Report: Sharon Corso gave a brief explanation as to how the September Treasurer's Report was reconciled. She explained that \$6,000 was taken out of the Reserved Operating Account and transferred to the General Fund Account. Average attendance for September was 516, and year-to-date 486.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor David: "How God is Working in our Midst"

- Large increase in 6th grade FISH registration
- Large increases in choir attendance
- Chris Thorson is leading the Grief Share Ministry
- Great response to LIFEgroup 101; need extra meeting time; 4 groups are meeting
- Jazz worship is engaging new leaders
- Creative ideas from Stewardship committee – Talent Show on Oct. 24th.
- Ashleigh Henrichs is forming a support group for mothers
- New member ministry team has a new class. Thanked Anne Sipsma for her leadership.

- E-Team: distributed 2300 door hangers; training for ushers, greeters, receptionists, leaders and staff; making home visits to first-time visitors; new Welcome Center staffed; sending out fall mailing to thousands of households; have new members for the E-Team and they will receive training from Pastor Carl.
- Call Committee and Council have recommended a candidate (Brian Alberti) for the congregation to consider. Meet & greet planned for Saturday, Oct. 17th and Sunday, October 18th.
- High School youth group has begun with renewed energy for Fusion & fall programming
- Tremendous response to Nurse Sue Quever's Monday class.
- New leadership for adult classes on Sunday morning

Business Manager Report: Jerry Willing, Business Manager passed out the first draft of the 2010 Mission and Ministry Plan – Operating Budget Planning Document to council members for review. A lengthy discussion followed. Emphasis on making Stewardship our commitment for the coming year could be brought to the attention of the congregation through more Stewardship talks. Jerry explained that the two greatest areas in the budget are staff wages, benefits, and benevolences. Many in attendance noted that the SCRIP Program could be emphasized more, and presented various ideas in ways to communicate this to the congregation. The consensus of those present, felt that we must stop deficit spending in the church. It is important that the congregation be challenged in their giving practices.

Jerry also informed the council that a mailing would be going out to the congregation concerning the Congregational Meeting, which will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. On the agenda will be the Mortgage Re-Financing proposal. It was also noted that at 11:30 a.m., prior to the mortgage proposal voting, bios will be made available on our prospective candidate, Brian Alberti, who the Call Committee along with the recommendation from Council, will be voted upon to fill the vacancy of Associate Pastor at St. Mary's.

Old Business:

Call Committee: Janet Schoettler reiterated that the meeting, which will be held Sunday, November 1, 2009, at 11:30 a.m., is to vote on the recommended candidate, Brian Alberti, for Associate Pastor at St. Mary's. It was noted that Pastor David Raben, Council President, David Mielke, and a representative from the Synod would handle the financial package arrangements.

Committee Reports Highlights: Ken Winkle referred to the fact that the committee reports are e-mailed out to council members by the secretary, thus saving us time going through every committee report at Council meetings.

Kate Dischler-Noreen spoke on behalf of Synodical Affairs concerning the search for a new Bishop. She reported that there are three final nominees from the Kenosha-West Racine Cluster based on the voting process. They are as follows:

- Mary Ann Moeller-Gunderson
- Jeff Barrows
- Paul Mittermaier

Church By-Laws Review: Steve Seymour informed the council members of the process the committee is taking in reviewing the by-laws. The committee has been working with people within the Synod for guidance. The tentative structural plan is to have two separate areas that need to be defined. They are as follows:

1. Constitution
By-Laws
Committee Manuel
2. Roles and responsibilities to be clearly defined between staff and lay positions.
This includes:
Treasurer
Bookkeeper
Financial Secretary
Business Manager

E-Team: No information at this time.

Seminary Assistance – Deb Hartfield: It was discussed that Deb Hartfield has been attending part-time seminary classes. After outside discussion with her, she said she would welcome any support, that St. Mary's could provide. Sharon Corso explained that there is \$10,000 in Dedicated Accounts that has been set aside for seminarian assistance many years ago. Its purpose is to assist any member(s) entering seminary work.

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to give Deb Hartfield \$500 for each remaining semester of the 2009-2010 school year and to re-evaluate future giving based upon discussion with her and her future goals. Motion passed. It was decided to recognize Deb at a future service.

New Business:

Council Connection: In Dennis Eirich's absence, Sharon Corso reported one concern brought forth in having the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 1, 2009. There would be a conflict with the times and football games that day. Ken Winkle stated that the game times were changed and would be played later in the day, thus no conflict with the meeting.

Gail Musolf reported that she heard concerns that no food items were being served now during coffee hours. It was noted that during the summer, groups had signed up to do this. She will be in contact with Jackie Larsen.

Nominating Committee: Pastor David reported that the committee has been meeting and contacting prospective nominees for the upcoming vacancies on council.

Communications Task Force: It was reported that some congregational members have expressed an interest in serving on this committee. Pastor Raben will be in contact with the E-Team as to whether or not they would also like to assist in this area.

Other New Business: None

Announcements: President David Mielke read a thank you from Lutherdale for our recent donation.

Gail Musolf reported that the Women of the Church Silent Auction raised an approximate total of \$2,000. With the matching funds, the total could reach \$3,000.

Randy Hansche reported from the Property Committee that there has been some vandalism to the new garage. Jerry Willing noted that a police report had been filed and encouraged everyone to be aware of this area late at night and note any suspicious things occurring, especially if you are at meetings at church in the evening.

Calendar: November Council Connection: Sharon Corso
Next Council Meeting: November 19, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lounge

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. and closed with the Lord's prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Jensen, Council Secretary