

**St Mary's Lutheran
Congregational Council Meeting**

February 18, 2010

In Attendance:

David Buggs	Dennis Eirich	Andrew Schroeder	Jerry Willing
Barbara Campbell	Greta Hansen	Steve Seymour	
Sharon Corso	Gail Musolf	Ken Winkle	
Laura Dietrich	Rod Pfeiffer	Pastor David Raben	
Kate Dischler-Noreen	Janet Schoettler	Pastor Brian Alberti	

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Steve Seymour at 6:37 p.m. in the lounge.

Devotions: Steve Seymour read a passage from the bible, Romans chapter 12, New Life in Christ.

Congregational Forum: None

Approval of February 18, 2010 Agenda:

Motion: made to accept by Barbara Campbell to include additions under Old Business and New Business from Personnel, Worship, Music & Arts, comments on donations to Synod and Sabbaticals.

Seconded

Passed

Approval of January 2010 Minutes

Motion: Ken Winkle

Second: David Buggs

Passed

Financial Secretary's Report: Sharon Corso reported on the Treasurer's report that all council members received from Dave Larsen. Also, on detailed reports she sent to council members. The results from the recent Audit showed some missing authorization forms. Copies of the form were given to Council members and explained. Forms need to be signed by Chair person or Council Liaison and checked for Budget availability to avoid being over budget. Sharon will visit with Committees to discuss their expectations and responsibilities. Finance Committee still working on policies and will bring them to Council as a whole when completed.

Pastor's Reports:

Pastor Brian:

- Traveled to Slidell La. to participate with Habitat for Humanity in fellowship with others.
- Attended a Synod event on Anti-Racism in Wauwatosa, it was insightful and well done.
- Pastor David and Pastor Brian will be attending a Marriage Training Seminar which provides training in pre-marital counseling.
- Will be starting a new Life Group beginning the second week in March.

Pastor David:

- Council members to bring red worship book to retreat this weekend.
- Stewardship papers that were sent out are to be put on hold.
- New revised agenda will be handed out at the retreat.
- Evangelism-where have we been and why is it important will be topic for discussion

Steve Seymour: For the benefit of New Council members went over expectations, motions and confidentiality. Barb Campbell explained the differences of Executive meetings, no minutes and greater confidentiality. Rod Pfeiffer will bring Roberts Rules for Dummies to Steve.

Business Manager Report: Jerry Willing explained how the building was being used during the week. (Sorting 90 boxes clothes donated from Jockey to be distributed to needy Organizations and St. Paul's having their Council retreat here this weekend. With no custodian in house, he asked that Committee's be encouraged to leave a room the way they found it. Rod Pfeiffer observed that there is not enough education on "How to use the building." We need to have a check sheet explaining what needs to be done and where to find it. Rod will work with the Property Committee to get one done. Jerry said Jackie Larson, Sue Quever, and Gretchen Rauch are working on guidelines for the kitchen.

Old Business:

Committee Report Highlights from Council Liaisons:

Synodical Affairs: Kate Dischler-Noreen noted the installation of the new Bishop on March 14, 2010. Pastor Raben, Carol Gilmour, Rod and Faith Pfeiffer will be attending. If anyone else would like to attend let Pastor Raben know. There is information available for the Ninth Annual Congregational Leaders event available if anyone is interested.

Homeland Ministry: Kate Dischler-Noreen reported she contacted Sue Quever for resources for returning Military and their families. Sue is very active with that project. Kate meet with Stephen Ministries and shared the Synod DVD on returning Military. Stephen Ministry has asked if the members of Homeland Ministry would like to be trained as Stephen Ministers. Kate also contacted Pastor Perez Hoffman from St. John's in West Milwaukee and the group has been invited to hear about their resources on March 6, 2010.

Personnel: Barbara Campbell reported that the committee is considering the issue of salary disclosure brought up at both the Budget and Annual meetings. The committee is thinking, considering and praying about it and will be brought up at their February meeting. Any policy that comes out of it will be brought before the Council.

Property: Rod Pfeiffer and Greta Hansen having problems getting report, Jerry will send them out in PDF format. Rod noted that the property committee has a huge list of things that can be done in the next five to ten years. Does the Council monitor what is to be done? Jerry stated they have two lists, current year and long term goals. The smaller projects are done as time and resources are available. The long term, such as, the Church roof and parking lot must come before the Council and Congregation for approval.

Caring Ministries: Greta Hansen stated that they are looking into the possibility of getting a DVD of the church service that could be brought into homes and Nursing Homes. They are checking with nursing homes to see if they will allow a service to be shown. Next Wednesday the Parish Nurse along with Doctors and Nurses will present the KEEP Program at the Friendly Senior Center. (Kidney Early Evaluation Program) It will also be presented to the public on the following evening. On Saturday March 6, 2010, there will be booths in the gym where people will be evaluated. Laura Dietrich asked "How does someone request a meal, and where is this advertised?" Greta said to contact the Parish Nurse Sue Quever or Pastor Raben. Laura also asked "How does someone request the Sunday tape and are there recorders available?" Greta said there were tapes available in the church office and a limited number of recorders available to loan out. Laura requested there be an information card to explain these things that could be placed at the Information Center. The next Caring Ministries meeting will be the third Monday of month at 6:00 p.m.

Technology: Sharon reported that this committee was looking into CD's for the church service as not too many people have tape players anymore. David Buggs is beginning to do DVD and CD's starting this Sunday. The equipment is in place, bugs need to be worked out of them.

Education: Andy Schroeder reported meeting minutes were sent out. Some highlights estimate available classes and Bible Studies to be about thirteen active studies (small groups and bible studies) held between Sunday and weekly meetings. This may not include women's circles.

Worship, Music & Arts: Ken Winkle stated that as a result of the Living Liturgy event held here participants made a list of things they would like to see done to the services. Some changes have been made to some of the services. The Celebration service is a result of this Living Liturgy event. The committee is looking at where we are to see if we want to move forward in this process. Some people like the changes and some don't. Steve quoted "You can worship silently but you can't pray silently. Laura observed that we had a very diverse group at our Ash Wednesday.

E-Team: Laura Dietrich stated E-Team back on track and remains strong. She will be talking to the Council at the retreat along with Pastor Carl on planting seeds how each ministry can be its own E-Team. Laura also presented at the New Member class, we had thirteen new members.

Parliamentary: David Buggs said he ordered a small pocket Roberts Rules of order.

Youth: Sharon Corso said there was no meeting in February because parents and youths are involved in basketball. The next meeting is in March. Lenten Suppers will begin next Wednesday the time to be 5:15 to 6:15 before Lenten Services. This is a fund raiser for the youth mission trip.

Stewardship: Steve Seymour sent a list of people for council to look at. The purpose is to clean up the roster. Reconnect with people who have been inactive. Pastor Raben has training materials on how to minister to people who have left the church, if anyone is interested in pursuing this see him.

Annual Meeting Review: Steve Seymour said we need to look at ways to keep the meeting to 1.5 to 2 hours. Three hours too long. By-law issues need to be addressed before the meeting. Schedule more Budget meetings so more people can attend and should be gone thru line by line at that time. Then they can submit a proposal in writing Friday before annual meeting to amend the budget with a motion and second with discussion on the floor.

Other old business: Steve Seymour asked David Buggs to work with Ryan Gerlach, Greta, and Janet to do a skit for script. Jerry will reprint brochure for Script. Steve asked about using posters to highlight giving. Other suggestions from council include new members, and other ways we give our talents and gifts.

New Business:

Council Connection: Steve Seymour reported that one complaint on the New Lord's Prayer. This person is not happy with the new one. Comment for Worship, Music & Arts a request for more old hymns. Ken said we take request for one Sunday a year. Rod said congregation needs to be educated to the reason certain hymns are chosen for the service. The hymns chosen fit the text of the Liturgy for that week.

Motion Greta Hansen: Greta made a motion to reimburse Rosemary Beilke for a digital recorder and software purchased to record and transcribes Council minutes. There was a discussion and Rosemary said she would try it out before deciding to turn in expense sheet.

Council Vacancy: Steve Seymour said in regards to vacancy Dennis Marx is still interested in the position. There was a discussion on by-laws on the issues brought up at the annual meeting.

Motion: Greta Hansen moved to appoint Dennis Marx to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting.

Seconded: Rod Pfeiffer

There was discussion on the question.

Passed

Council Committee Liaisons: Working on Ministry items. Jim Miller is working on by-laws. Invite him to next meeting. We may know more after the retreat.

Council Connection: Everyone had filled out a slot on the sheet. It will be published to all Council members. There was a discussion about what to do. Council member could go to the welcome center between services to take questions.

Other New Business:

Personnel: Barbara Campbell turned the discussion over to Jerry Willing who explained the process they went through to determine the cleaning coverage we needed. A combination of cleaning service and staff positions is in the best interest of the congregation as long as it stays budget neutral. A job description was presented for two part-time custodians with overlapping schedules- M-F and F-M. They would be straight salary with no benefits. There have been three bids submitted from cleaning services but they were not budget friendly. We are seeking more bids. The Ad for the janitors will be put in the

Kenosha News if the job description is approved. It will also be sent to other Lutheran Churches in the area to see if they have anyone interested in the position.

Motion: Barbara Campbell moved to approve the Job Description for the two custodians.

Seconded: Ken Winkle

Motion: Passed

Jerry Willing: Will ask for a Special Council Meeting to approve hiring of the two custodians when they have candidates.

Worship, Music & Arts:

Motion: Ken Winkle moved that the Council pay (from Memorial Fund) Brian Schoettler \$10 per hour for (12) twelve hours per week for June and July; this would amount to \$1200. Brian would direct all of the summer worship activities for June and July while Linda Schmidt is on sabbatical.

Seconded: Laura Dietrich

Discussion: See motion hand out for details. There was much discussion about how much time needed to be spent on it, where the money was coming from, and how, if we did not move forward with this, we would be losing ground in growing our congregation. It was decided that we needed to move forward with this and we would find creative ways to find the monies necessary without going over the budget.

Motion: Passed

Sabbaticals: Steve Seymour asked when Linda's sabbatical was voted on. Barbara confirmed that it was voted on and approved last year. It is typical for roster personnel to take sabbaticals. Pastor David who has been here for four years is scheduled for a sabbatical in his seventh year. Pastor Brian is scheduled for a sabbatical in five years. Ken stated it takes two years to plan for a sabbatical, to get the funding and plan for the person's absence. The Pastor and Congregation need to have established goals for when he is gone, and the Congregation needs to be educated to the benefits of this renewal. The Congregation needs to be educated to the activities going on behind the scenes to improve their Faith Life and their surroundings.

Donations to Synod: Steve Seymour said there were some people who were going to give to the church but they don't want their monies going to the Synod. How do we answer that? Pastor Raben said we have chosen to go through the Synod because of the accountability of funds distributed to the Missions. Our focus as a Church is Mission. It is impossible to distinguish whose money it is once it goes into General Funds. Like throwing a can of soup into a large pot of soup, how do you know you are getting your own? Pastor Raben said if they were looking for their gift to stay local, they can donate to the Good Samaritan Fund. It always needs replenishing. Steve will get the word out through Stewardship.

Thank you letters: Rosemary Beilke read thank you notes for donations made to the following organizations by St. Mary's:

- Chaplaincy of Kenosha County
- Shalom Center- gift of \$388.53

- Luther dale Ministries- gift of \$3875.04
- Shalom Center-gift of \$1081.94
- ELCA Urban Outreach Center-gift of \$572.58
- Luther dale Ministries Annual Fund-gift of \$313.02

Announcements: David Buggs received an e-mail from Shalom Center is putting out a request for full size sheets, towels, and crib sheets. They need this for their family shelter. Laura put together a tip sheet for the retreat in case you have never been there before. Dinner is at 5:30. You can check in early.

Calendar:

- March Council Connection will be Ken Winkle
- Next Council Meeting will be March 18, 2010 in the Lounge at 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Request: The following were included in our prayer requests:

Brittany and her Mother, Natalie Buggs, Georgiana Willing, Aaron.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer: A motion by Steve Seymour and a second by Greta Hansen to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p. m. The Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Beilke, Council Secretary