

St Mary's Lutheran
Congregational Council Meeting
March 18, 2010

In Attendance:

Rosemary Beilke	Greta Hansen	Ken Winkle
David Buggs	Gail Musolf	Pastor David Raben
Barbara Campbell	Rod Pfeiffer	Pastor Brian Alberti
Sharon Corso	Janet Schoettler	Jerry Willing
Laura Dietrich	Andy Schroeder	
Dennis Eirich	Steve Seymour	

Absent: Kate Dischler-Noreen, Dennis Marx

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Steve Seymour at 6:31 pm in the lounge.

Congregational Forum: none

Bible Study: Laura Dietrich led the bible study for Ephesians chapter 4: 11-16. Laura explained the basis for the study that we would be thinking, experiencing the word, meditating and acting out our response to God's word among ourselves and the people we interact with on a daily basis. We gathered prayer request to be shared and Laura ended the bible study with a reading from a devotional and prayer.

Approval of March 18, 2010 Agenda:

Motion: by David Buggs to accept with additions to old and new business.

Second: Barbara Campbell

Approved

Approval of March 4, 2010 Minutes

Motion: Rod Pfeiffer

Second: Greta Hansen

Approved

Financial Secretary Report: Sharon Corso asked if all had received Treasurer's Report, all had. She stated that we had to borrow \$6700.00 from the operating reserve account for the month of February. In the month of March we will have to borrow a much larger sum because we have three payrolls and Easter falls in April.

Business Manager Report:

Jerry Willing gave Ken Winkle the keys for the night deposit at the new bank M&I which is located at Pershing Plaza. The new account deposits will start the weekend of March 28, 29, 2010.

As stated last month we received \$70,000 from the estate of Betty Kuessow. Forty thousand in undesignated funds will be split 60% long-term reserve, 20% operating reserve and 20% short-term capital reserve. This will be reflected in next month's report. Thirty thousand was designated as a Scholarship Fund for students attending a Lutheran College. The Church is not able to administer this fund and feels it would be administered more efficiently by the Endowment Foundation. This was explained to Betty's attorney and will be explained to her son also. If this is acceptable to him, the funds will be transferred to the Endowment Foundation in her name so they can set up the scholarships.

Jerry updated the progress on the pending law suit for the accident which occurred on January 25, 2009. Our attorney feels the suit is unfounded and has filed for a dismissal. The Plaintiff's attorney is asking if we have a policy on children running in the halls and if so is it posted. Jerry stated yes we do have a policy the children are under the guidance and discipline of the teachers inside and outside of the classroom. As things progress we may have to start thinking about developing some behavior policies.

As of this week both custodians are on board. They are working well together. A new cleaning service (Abel) will be starting on Monday. They come highly recommended by Sue Quever, Parish Nurse, and Lord of Life. They will be putting on extra staff to bring us up to where we should be. This weekend is spring cleanup at the Church from 8am to 12pm. All hands are invited to help out.

Because of the fiscal year end change it is budget time again. Jerry and two volunteers will be collecting data from all the Ministry teams. We would like them to think about their goals, what they want to accomplish, their mission and upcoming events. We would like to put together a calendar of events for the coming year to be posted on the web site by the end of June. Laura stated we need to contact other Ministry teams to get them to share ideas and to plan events together. Sharon has volunteered to help people put together their budgets. Key point is the time line, Jerry proposed a Congregational Meeting for August 1, 2010. He also suggested we invite members to two budget hearings to address concerns and to finalize the budget before the congregational meeting. Steve stated we are currently reviewing Constitution and By-laws and now would be the time to review the time required to complete the budget. Currently we have five weeks after the year end to hold an annual meeting which then also imposes a time constraint on completing the budget. If we could push the Annual Meeting to mid or late August that would give more time to work with the Ministries to complete their budgets. Gail stated we need to let the congregation know that the Annual Meeting will not be the place for lengthy discussion regarding the Budget and members need to attend the Budget hearings if they want input on it. David said we need to consider how the congregation will get the budget if not at the annual meeting.

Steve Seymour: as stated earlier this is still experimental. Forty-five minutes feels good for the Bible Study leaving us only forty-five minutes for business. We will continue to work on this and try to stay on track for time.

Old Business:

Personnel: Barbara Campbell stated that after much reflection and prayer the committee proposes the staff salaries remain confidential. That they be made available to the personnel, finance and council committees as needed at budget time.

Motion: Barbara Campbell moved to accept Tara's text as follows: Limit the disclosure of salary and benefit information to the Church Council, the Finance Committee, and the Personnel Committee **as needed to conduct the business of the Church**. For those interested, there can be full disclosure of the Pastor's wages and benefits since it is public information at the time of a call. The expectation of all members of the committees who will receive the information is that they will have the information they need to make the right decisions for the church and that they will maintain confidentiality with the information. Our decision was based on the strong need for Pastor Raben to be able to continue his teamwork efforts with the staff without creating morale issues or friction amongst members of the staff. We feel that by equipping the Finance Committee and the Church Council with the salary/benefit information, there are enough eyes on the information to ease members trust issues.

Second: Gail Musolf

Approved

Constitution and By-Laws: Sharon stated that the last time the Constitution and By-Laws were updated was in 1996. The ELCA has a 2009 Model Constitution available and there are many items in it that cannot be changed and they are not in our Constitution or the wording is different. One of the items is that it has to go out to the congregation sixty days before the Annual Meeting if it is to be adopted. Several items need to be discussed with council before they are added or changed. She will bring them to upcoming meetings to be discussed.

On the By-Laws Sharon stated that there are two big areas that need to be updated, an Organization Chart needed to be established and maintained. David said, it doesn't have to be in the by-laws yet but has to be in progress. Another is the Committee structure which we are looking to change. ELCA has suggested we not have committee's and their duties listed but have a handbook with this information. We need to decide what we want to include. Steve is working on another big part of the by-laws which is the Officers of the Congregation. Because we have a Business Manager roles have changed so Steve is working on the Officers rolls and duties.

The By-Laws committee is meeting again April, 7, 2010. Sharon will send an e-mail with details. David has a program which will show the old constitution and by-laws versus the new and will make it available to council members to review before we meet again.

Steve: some food for thought, we would like to have as a running Ministry a "Vision Ministry" responsible for developing long and short term goals. They would work closely with E-Team and Stewardship. We need to take a look at how council member are spending their time with committees and if we can free them up to take on other rolls within these other Ministries.

Highlights:

Laura stated they had 12-14 new members committed to the E-Team. They are planning a retreat so the two groups can meld into one. Laura stated that the E-Team was now responsible for getting greeters for all the services. Jerry Lachman and Natalie Buggs have been involved in getting greeters for over ten years and we are grateful for their service. Council Secretary will send a thank you from the council to both.

Vision Moments:

Pastor Raben would like to have a gathering event (tent, grill, food, music) in the fall to kick off the theme for the year. The theme would flow into stewardship. They are thinking about "Get Connected" as there are posters and information already developed. Time frame for kick off was discussed and is still in progress.

Steve: He thought the children's performance of "Three Trees" as the sermon was very well received. We had over six hundred in attendance at the services. Pastor Raben had fourteen people tell him it was the best sermon they had heard.

New Business

Council Connection: for the month of April, 2010 is Andy Schroeder.

Nominating Committee: Steve will call John to get the process started.

Barbara Campbell: stated she would be resigning from the Council effective with the next Annual Meeting. Time constraints make it difficult to attend meetings.

Youth Computer: Sharon stated that the computer Ryan uses for Youth Ministry is old and slow and in need of being updated. The Youth committee has designated \$900.00 toward the computer. They have spoken with WMA to see if they have any funds available that can be used toward the computer. This would be a dual function computer used for youth and education.

Motion: Sharon moved that the council provide additional money not to exceed \$1500.00 from the long term reserve account for the purchase of an Apple Computer to be used for Good Friday worship preparation in addition to other tasks for the church for example technology during worship. This Apple computer exceeds the specifications from a proposal received by the technology committee on installing technology for use in the sanctuary.

Second: Laura Dietrich

Discussion: Through discussion it was determined that the computer probably didn't come with the software to be compatible with other processes at the church level.

Amended Motion: Sharon moved to amend the motion not to exceed \$2000.00 to include software purchase.

Second: Laura Dietrich

Approved

Announcements:

Barbara Campbell: Carthage College is having Lazareth Memorial Lectures starting March 23, 2010 at 4:00pm. It is a four lecture series and information can be found on their web site.

Ken Winkle: highly recommended the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Milwaukee Museum which is running until June 6th.

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

- ELCA Urban Outreach Center month of Feb. for \$555.03
- ELCA Urban Outreach Center month of March for \$555.03
- A notification of the Lutherdale Fest Quilt Auction

Pastor Brian: brought a thank you from the Kenosha Jail Chaplaincy. There was a discussion on the Chaplain's ministry and that it would be good to have him come and speak to the congregation and especially the youth.

Calendar: the next Council meeting is April 15, 2010 in the Lounge. Andy Schroeder will lead the Bible Study. We will go back to two meetings in the month of May. The next meeting in May can cover the constitution and by-laws.

Prayer Requests: The following people were included in our prayer requests:

The families who have lost loved ones, Akin, De Haan, Kersting, and Vandenberg. Kate Dischler-Noreen, Erica, the Frito Lay route man having heart surgery, Pastor David, Andy, Greta, Steve, Georgianna, Dennis Marx, Laura's father.

Adjournment & Closing Prayers: A motion by Steve Seymour and a second by David Buggs to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p. m. The Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Beilke, Council Secretary