

**St Mary's Lutheran
Congregational Council Meeting
April 15, 2010**

In Attendance:

Rosemary Beilke Greta Hansen Steve Seymour
Sharon Corso Gail Musolf Pastor David Raben
Laura Dietrich Rod Pfeiffer Pastor Brian Alberti
Kate Dischler-Noreen Janet Schoettler
Dennis Eirich Andy Schroeder

Absent: David Buggs, Barbara Campbell, Dennis Marx, Ken Winkler

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Steve Seymour at 6:35 p. m. in the lounge.

Congregational Forum: none

Bible Study: Andy Schroeder lead the bible study for John's Gospel Chapter 21: 1-19 with a concentration on focus, inform connect and vision. He ended with a prayer.

Approval of April 15, 2010 Agenda:

Motion: by Laura Dietrich to accept with Pastor Raben to include new members in his report.

Second: Rosemary Beilke

Accepted

Approval of March 18, 2010 Minutes:

Motion: Greta Hansen

Second: Janet Schoettler

Accepted

Pastors' Report:

Pastor Brian:

- Spoke with Bishop Jeff Barrow to discuss the efforts St. Mary's is making toward establishing a Habitat for Humanity affiliate here in Kenosha. Pastor Brian is in the process of filling out required documentation necessary to discern whether Habitat is the right fit for our community.
- Met with board members of the Urban Outreach Center. Chris Hammerelev, Interim Director requested Council member addresses to be able to send out Urban Outreach Newsletter.
- Pastor Brian will be preaching at Spirit Alive on April 18, 2010
- In May he will be traveling to South Carolina to meet with professors of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in defense of his thesis for the degree of Master's of Sacred Theology.
- He will not be able to attend the 10th Anniversary Banquet for Cush, but said tickets were available for sale to anyone who wished to attend.
- Sharon Corso asked Pastor Brian, as a Pastor what is he doing inside St Mary's?
- For Confirmation, he has given Faith Statements to confirmation students to be completed throughout the summer.
- His Live Group is going well.

Pastor David:

- New members were received into the congregation last Sunday. He highlighted each new member.

Motion: to receive new members was made by Sharon Corso

Second: Rod Pfeiffer

Accepted

There was discussion on whether new members should be approved by the council before they join. Need to look at the by-laws. You join the church by affirmation of baptism not by what the council says.

- Discussion on fall impact event, what, when, and where should it be. The thoughts are for mid September with the kick off theme of “Get Connected” which could encompass Stewardship as well. Pastor’s vision of small groups also needs to be developed for Lent.

Financial Secretary Report: Sharon Corso passed out the Treasurers Report including the breakdown for Operating Reserves. The budgeting process has begun. Sharon has been visiting committees and ministries to discuss the budgeting process and the deadlines that need to be met. Sharon also stated that they have not had the Treasurer at any of the meetings. Steve Seymour will follow up.

March giving was not good but April has been better. Jerry put together a spreadsheet which shows the first three months giving. The pledged contributions are coming in at 108% of pledged amounts and the unpledged or faith giving is at 16.6% which is less than the 20% anticipated.

Laura Dietrich asked what the time line was for the budgeting process as the two E-teams would be meeting together in May to set their goals. Sharon stated the Finance Committee will be meeting May 13, 2010 to go over the first draft of the budget. She said the committee’s and ministries needed to have their budget numbers in to Finance by April 27, 2010.

There was some discussion about annual meeting date being changed to later than August 1, 2010, but the by-laws state the annual meeting has to be five weeks after year end. It cannot be changed right now because it needs to be done at an annual meeting.

Old Business

Meeting times: Steve Seymour stated that realistically we are looking at a two hour meeting twice a month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. So that we are not rushing through business items and we get the full benefit from the bible study.

Committee/Ministry Structure: Steve Seymour said there is a need to focus on vision and goal setting and his thoughts are to have a committee or ministry that would be responsible for setting goals and the vision and bringing it to the Council for consideration. Sharon Corso stated another point talked about is not having Council liaisons to Committees. If we are not going to have them, we need to know as this impacts budget and finance. How will committees get stuff to Council, who will monitor the budgets and sign off on expenses? Steve Seymour stated that part of the by-law recommendation is that we would still have council liaisons connected to the committees but that they would not be required to attend monthly meetings, only on as as-needed or quarterly basis.

By-laws & Constitution: Sharon Corso stated they had revised all of the Constitution and most of the by-laws. She has found someone who can do the comparison of old to new but David Buggs has all of the documentation on his computer and has been sick and unable to attend. They will either have to start from scratch or get David to send them the documentation.

Nomination Committee: There has been no contact with Pastor Raben yet. We need a slate to fill two positions.

Computer and Software: Sharon Corso stated the computer and software was up and running at the Good Friday service. Ryan is overjoyed and thankful because it is working wonderfully.

Sharon said the people who cover our computers don't cover the Mac system so they purchased a warranty service contract to cover it. She stated that they didn't need all the money that they asked for but she doesn't know the total yet.

New Business

Council Connection: nothing to report.

Wartburg Theological Seminary: has sent a letter requesting financial support. It will be passed on the Synodical Affairs.

Ministries: Steve Seymour said we will try to tie in "Keep it Simple" for Stewardship with "Get Connected" theme. He said many times in life we make things more complex than they have to be in so many ways in our life.

Property: Rod Pfeiffer asked for comments on the new Nurses Offices. Pastor Raben said he had spoken with Nurse Sue Quever about having a Blessing between services sometime in May. Rod stated that the Nursery would be next on the agenda. Some things have already been completed but it is still a work-in-progress.

Pastor Raben asked that we keep the high school in our prayers as they are having "Rock in' Lock in" this weekend and will be traveling to Pewaukee.

Announcements:

- Elijah Alleluia Choir Dessert Theater will be April 24th and 25th.
- Ladies Night out a Mother/Daughter/Friend banquet will be held April 30th and the men will be doing all the work for a change.
- April 24, 2010 is the Earth Day Grounds Clean-up
- Pastor Brian's Birthday is Saturday

Calendar: the next Council meeting is May 6, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in room 1W. Rosemary Beilke will lead the Bible Study.

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

Louisa Lasche, David Buggs, Aileen Wick, Betty Marble, Liz Hanley, and Aaron Hartfield.

Adjournment & Closing Prayers: a motion by Greta Hansen and a second by Janet Schoettler to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Accepted. The Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Beilke, Council Secretary