

**St. Mary's Lutheran  
Congregational Council Meeting  
January 21, 2010**

**In Attendance:**

|                      |                  |                |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| David Buggs          | Dennis Eirich    | Steve Seymour  |
| Barbara Campbell     | Marilyn Jensen   | Jon Svatek     |
| Sharon Corso         | Gail Musolf      | Ken Winkle     |
| Laura Dietrich       | Janet Schoettler | Pastor Raben   |
| Kate Dischler-Noreen | Andrew Schroeder | Pastor Alberti |

**Excused:** David Mielke

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice-President, Steve Seymour at 6:35 p.m. in the Lounge.

**Devotions:** Janet Schoettler led the evening devotions from a passage entitled, "Giving".

**Congregational Forum:** No one present.

**Approval of January 21, 2010 Agenda:**

**Motion:** made to accept by David Buggs to include additional item under New Business from Church in Society Ministry.

**Seconded:** Barbara Campbell

**Passed**

**Approval of December 17, 2010 Minutes &  
Special Council Meeting Minutes - January 17, 2010**

**Motion:** David Buggs

**Seconded:** Gail Musolf

**Passed**

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Sharon Corso reported on the Treasurer's Reports that all council members received via e-mail from Dave Larsen, Bookkeeper. Sharon will ask Dave to include the three-reserve accounts information into the footnotes of the December Treasurer's Report. It was noted that all of the church's bank accounts would soon be transferred to the M & I Bank, as they will be doing the church loan refinancing. These should be in place by the next Finance meeting. Attendance for December was 538 and the average to date is 501 compared to last year's total at 503. Sharon also reported that Mike Jones, a member of the Finance Committee, is still fine-tuning the proposal updates for the dedicated accounts.

**Pastor's Reports:**

**Pastor Brian -**

- Participated in a luncheon for CUSH along with other members from St. Mary's.
- Will participate in an upcoming board meeting for Urban Outreach.

- Goal to have greater awareness and congregational participation in serving various social ministries at St. Mary's & within the community.
- Will travel to Slidell with those engaged in Habitat for Humanity.
- In February, will hold an informal gathering for a third LIFE-group.
- Continues to work with FISH.
- Will begin congregational training for Evangelism.

**Pastor David** -

- Expressed goals under "Go Pray, Love & Serve" mission statement.
  - Will encourage participation to discuss these items at the Annual meeting with a "Listening and Reflection" exercise.
  - Stressed the fact that "God is doing great things in our congregation."
1. Evangelism Action Plan
  2. New Member Ministry Team
  3. Mission
  4. Care Ministry Team
  5. Leadership
  6. Stewardship
- Would like to see the numbers increase for new members to serve on the E-Team.
  - Will also be traveling with those going to Slidell in February.
  - Lenten theme will be centered on Matthew 6.

**Business Manager Report:** In Jerry Willing's absence, Steve Seymour reported that we have gained approximately \$25,000 more in pledges, which will drop the deficit somewhat in the proposed 2010 budget.

**Old Business:**

**Committee Report Highlights from Committee Liaisons:**

**Personnel:** Barbara Campbell reported that the committee's next meeting would be Thursday, January 28 at 5:30 p.m.

**Property:** Jon Svatek reported that they have met with the architect and the consulting engineer has completed plans for the re-roofing of the building and the re-paving of the parking lot. Randy Hansche has designated areas for committee storage of equipment in the new garage. Work is continuing on the new Nurses Office.

**Education:** Andy Schroeder reported that the committee has been discussing new ideas for increasing educational opportunities in the church. (Example - more Bible study classes). The "Bible Blast" was a great success. "Jammies for Jesus" will take place this coming weekend.

**Worship, Music & Arts:** Ken Winkle passed out a sheet from Linda Schmidt, Director of Music, which outlined all the proposed 2010 Music Ministry Highlights.

**Nursery School:** Gail Musolf reported that things are running smoothly.

**E-Team:** Laura Dietrich noted the next meeting will be Tuesday and recruitment is high on the list. The team would like to get more members to serve on the committee and to encourage members to sign up to be greeters.

**Youth:** Sharon Corso reported that Leslie Sandahl is the new Chairperson of this committee. Rummage sale was a success - no dollar amount total at this point. Good turnout.

**Church in Society:** Janet Schoettler reported that she, along with members of the committee, attended the 2010 CUSH Kick-Off Luncheon held on January 17, 2010.

**Communications Committee:** Sharon Corso reported that the committee has sent out a request for information about the activities that are taking place within the various committee ministries at St. Mary's. They hope to get these posted on the Kiosk Board near the Welcome Center. A visitor to St. Mary's will then be able to see first hand what these committees are doing and hopefully new members or visitors will express an interest to receive more information. Information containing the availability of obtaining "free information software" will be discussed at their next meeting.

**Caring Ministries:** David Buggs stated that the committee has had the opportunity, with the assistance of Judy Schroeder, to go through the lists of those that are shut-ins or homebound and make sure they are all being offered communion. Everyone is accounted for at this time.

**Synodical Affairs:** Kate Dischler-Noreen noted the installation of the new bishop would take place on March 14, 2010 in Wauwatosa, WI at St. Matthew's Church.

**Homeland Ministry:** The committee will meet with Sue Quever, R.N. and Parish Nurse to help with medical resources for returning military personnel. It is hoped she would be able to assist the committee and its members with health issues as needed. Kate has had contact with a group in Barnum, Minnesota at Elim Lutheran Church who have developed a handbook for those military personnel returning from war zones and is intended for use by church leaders and members. The committee is looking into the possibility of having a "Military Night".

**Annual Meeting/Foundation Board:** The Foundation has recommended the following nominees to be candidates for election to the Foundation Board at the Annual Meeting. The three board members whose terms expire in 2009 are:

Kay Manderfeld  
John Basler  
Neil Guttormsen

All three board members have elected to run for another term.

Sharon Corso made the motion to accept the slate of nominees for the Foundation Board - Kay Manderfeld, John Basler & Neil Guttormsen. Seconded by Janet Schoettler. Motion passed. These names will be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting.

**Council Nominating Committee:** Sharon Corso made the motion to place the names of Marilyn Jensen & Jon Svatek on the ballot as candidates for a three-year term on the Nominating Committee for election at the Annual meeting. Seconded by Janet Schoettler. Motion passed.

**Council Retreat:** The Council Retreat will take place on February 19 & 20 at the Sienna Center. Cost for the retreat will be payable by each council member. It was suggested to include a worship service format on Friday and Saturday.

**Council Connection:** Janet Schoettler had nothing to report at this time.

**Other Old Business:** Steve Seymour led the discussion on a few items from the budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Pastor David and Pastor Brian excused themselves from this portion of the meeting and discussion. It was decided to have the Personnel Committee report back to the Council with recommendations as to the question of disclosure of wages for all those on the St. Mary's Lutheran staff.

**New Business:** (Pastor David & Pastor Brian returned to the meeting.)

Discussion took place as to the effectiveness of council members serving as liaisons on the individual ministry committees. Items for thought:

- Council needs to provide action in 2010 with the Mission & Ministry Plan.
- E-Team, Stewardship & Finance Committee need more members.
- Where does council focus its' energies?

**Announcements:** Ken Winkle stated that Church in Society would like to have "Souper Bowl" Sunday again on February 7. They would like to place soup kettles out for collections with the funds going to the Shalom Center. Ken made the motion to have "Souper Bowl" Sunday on February 7 & have the funds collected going to the Shalom Center. Seconded by David Buggs. Motion passed.

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

- Shalom Center - gift of \$1,081.94
- Salvation Army - gift of \$1,676.17
- Luther dale - gift of \$322.92
- ELCA Urban Outreach Center - gift of \$572.58

**Calendar:**

- February Council Connection will be Steve Seymour
- Next Council Meeting will be February 18, 2010 in the Lounge at 6:30 p.m.

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

Georgie Willing, Liz Hanley, Natalie Buggs, Janet Schoettler, Kate's brother, the 45 people going to Slidell, and all those affected by the earthquake in Haiti.

**Adjournment & Closing Prayer:** A motion by Laura Dietrich and seconded by Sharon Corso to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Jensen, Council Secretary