

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

May 7, 2007

Present: Pastor Mathews, Dick Yost, Bill Oehler, Bob Davies, Larry Wood, Bill Calhoun, Barbara Stauffer. Sam Lesko, Shirley Buntrock and Bengt Berg

Sam read a devotional from Acts and Martin Luther's sermon.

The meeting was opened with prayer from Sam Lesko.

Minutes of the April 9 meeting were presented and reviewed. No questions. Addition, Bengt was in attendance at the April meeting. A motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting with the amendment that Bengt was in attendance, was made by Sam Lesko and second Bill Calhoun. Motion passed.

Treasurer report

An adjustment on Endowment Value increased totals. Questions on report? Pastor indicated that the balances of the general, memorial and CD reflect opening of accounts at Citizens. A CD from PNC was transferred as follows: \$1000 to Citizens checking, \$1000 to savings, and \$16,000 to CD.

Bill Oehler questioned what we see in the weekly bulletin is the total of what? Pastor reported that the financial report shown in the weekly bulletin does not include benevolences or interest or any other income than contributions. Bill questioned if accrued interest get used. Pastor indicated that it becomes part of general checking.

There was a question of the Miscellaneous budget category increase. The balance of \$500 was forwarded to the Yankees for the party box. The expenses for music seem to be up, it will be addressed with worship team.

A motion to accept the treasurer report as presented was made by Shirley Buntrock and second Bill Oehler. Motion passed.

Worship Ministry – Bob Davis

The piano was re moved from the parish house and the keyboard from church was moved to the parish house. Acolyte training was held on Sunday, May 6. Most in attendance have already been trained and been acolytes. It is hoped that training/review will happen again.

Council did not have any questions or concerns for the Worship Team.

Next meeting will be May 31.

Education Ministry - Dick Yost

A meeting was held May 2. The superintendent duties were split between Heather Klien and Patricia Novicke-Schwoebel. A list of responsibilities per person will be available on web site.

Many staff attended an Akaloo seminar at the Mission District Festival. Akaloo is new curriculum offered by Augsburg Fortress. We will hold a "webinar" at Pastor Mathews' house. It seems to be advantageous to switch to Akaloo. A decision will be made after webinar.'

Dick had a concern that the Mission District Festival registration was late, but had many attended from Trinity. The rest of the District was late in mailing info.

Any suggestions for workshops next year may be made.

Pre school advisory board will be meeting soon for charter meeting.

Service and Outreach - Sam Lesko

There was an April 11 meeting for which the minutes should be on web.

Parish Health Ministry – Carol Pencek will resign as coordinator of PHM and she is compiling an outline of a job description. PHM will act as steering committee for a replacement and the Service and Outreach Team will interview and present to council any recommendations.

Special benevolence – it was suggested to remind congregation what Special Benevolence is and what they do. If members know of any needs they can bring them to the attention the team. Bill Oehler questioned if we have envelopes for special benevolence available? The only envelopes currently are in the offering sets. Should we make generic one? After some needs are outlined.

Some requests have been suggested from the Endowment Committee that would require that committee meet. A meeting will be scheduled by Barbara and Todd.
Council had no questions or concerns for this team.

Witness and Fellowship - Barbara Stauffer

Pictorial directories for new members since the last book in 2005 have been updated by Bengt taking pictures on Sunday mornings. Bengt is compiling "pages" of newest members. A complete membership roster of addresses is available on the web site. Bill Oehler suggested including addresses as well as picture as the book is previously. More new members' pictures will be updated in June when Bengt is available. Bent got a quote from Sprint for additional copies; they said \$200 for 100 copies (2 - two sided pages). This will be followed up on as pictures are completed.

State Park Ministry – a letter requesting funds for a State Park ministry to be held at Lackawanna State Park on Sunday mornings by Patricia Novicke-Schwoebel has been submitted by this team to council. It was recommended that it be addressed by Endowment fund to finance this outreach ministry.

Mike Kraehling has compiled a letter.

This ministry is being sought because Patricia has previously involved in State Park ministry and some attendants were able to meet on Saturday at Fatima and a sub committee was able to be formed for a campground ministry. There will be a request to the Endowment fund to fund this program over 3 years. It has to be approved by PA council of churches. All was worked out that day and needs to be approved by endowment fund.
The first Saturday evening Pot luck supper held Saturday before church. It was well received.

Support Ministry Team -

Council nominations – council suggested to ask congregation for anyone interested in serving on council to make that wish known. Joyce Schwabe and Steve Bowman have expressed interest in being nominated.

Council would like to formerly thank Bill Calhoon and Dick Yost for first term and see if they will serve again. Also, a thank you to Larry Wood for his years of service.

Sub committee development - John Gallo will chair the property committee. Ed Schwabe has expressed an interest in property committee as well as Kurt Sorensen.

Mark Davis will chair a personnel committee.

Accounts for the banks are in the process of being transferred to Citizens. We are waiting to be sure that everything clears from PNC and that direct deposits are deposited into Citizens.

Long Range Planning - Bill Oehler researched land ownership of 1 1/3 acres behind the dentist property next door. There is an alley that runs adjacent to the church and the 1 1/3 acres. Approximately 140 cars could be parked there. If we purchase the land, then the borough could be approached regarding any potential zoning issues. Work would need to be done on land to level it out and make it a lot which should still be cheaper than a new church. Dave Howell found a clause in the deed that indicates that it can not be subdivided. Dave will research at courthouse. Bill feels that it would not have to be subdivided.

Bill Calhoon was able to speak to Bob Huylo and mentioned that piece of land. Bob thinks that someone is planning on doing something with that land already. That might indicate a price increase if there are currently plans for it. A driveway would be able to be created onto Upper Knapp road. Bill Calhoon is not sure how to proceed regarding getting a tangible example from Bob about prospects for congregation for late summer and informing them of what we suggest doing. If we can get parking, then we can maximize the facility that we have. Bill Calhoon will speak to Dave Howell regarding deed.

When we get an answer about if land is available, then we can approach Bob Huylo about plans.

Motion to have someone speak to Dr. Joe Kelly who owns the land, made by Bill Oehler and second Shirley.
Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

The By-law implications regarding employees of church being church council members was presented by Pastor Mathews. Section 7 and 8 were added regarding multiple members of household on council and paid employees serving on council which is not possible. Sam questioned if a paid employee's household member could serve on council. It is ok if employee's household member serves on council.

Accepting addition to by-laws needs to be done by congregation and can be announced to congregation at the Spring meeting in May and the congregation notified that it will be voted on at the December Congregation meeting. Also, pose to congregation to add Ministry teams to by-laws.

Motion to accept the amendments to the by-laws (Sections 7 and 8), and present to congregation was made by Bill Oehler and second Shirley Buntrock.

Other: Nothing

NEW BUSINESS:

Transfers to Trinity: Sue and Steven Tully and children Ryan and Aaron from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Toms River, NJ.

Stephen McDonnell from Clarks Green UMC in Clarks Green.

Kerry Mathews by profession of faith.

A motion to accept new members was made by Dick Yost and second Barbara Stauffer. Motion passed.

Other: Devotions for June meeting will be read by Shirley.

The Bigger Picture:

From "Making Christ Known" 2007: Pastor provided members with a breakout of what amount of the budget of NEPA Synod contributions comes from Trinity. The report that shows how our pledge of \$20,000.00 is paid to NEPA Synod and how it is distributed through ELCA. Forty-seven cents of each dollar for Mission support is used for support ministries of NEPA Synod and 53 cents is used for support of ministries of ELCA.

Sam suggests making that information available to congregation. Refer to Support Team.

Pastor had a video presentation from Bishop Mark Hanson that reflected on the areas that the ELCA serves and how monies support these areas. Video could be shown to Support Ministry Team to emphasize what outreach is and how we support outreach opportunities.

Dick wanted to enlighten the council that Bishop Stroebel has just completed in house rehab and requested prayers for him.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and a motion by Bill Calhoon and second Barbara Stauffer at 9:25 pm.

Next meeting June 11, 2007 at 7:30 pm.

Carole Hamersly
Secretary