

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, March 12, 2007

PRESENT: Council Members Sandy Anderson, Paul Carne, Darrell Casperson, Karen Caswell, Karen DeZiel, Bob Gregg, Tim Mulvaney, Don Nyquist, Deanne O'Dell, Trina Pearson, Ann Rath, Bob Sovey; staff members Jeanne Sauter, Don Aronson, and Pastor Andersen

ABSENT: (excused) Doug Leisenring, Mary Maercklein, Raquel Zelenak, Sandy Flinn

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President, Tim Mulvaney.

DEVOTIONS: Devotions were presented by Darrell C. who spoke of the inspiration given to him by his nephew.

New Council member, Ann Rath, was introduced to the Council by Tim M.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Paul C. and seconded by Darrell C. to accept the minutes of the Feb. 7 Council meeting as corrected. The corrections included the date printed on the copies of the minutes and the listing of the volunteers to serve on the committee to revise the Financial Statements. Those volunteers are: Tim, Raquel, Greg DeZiel, and Pastor Peterson. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Darrell and seconded by Bob S. to accept the Treasurer's Report, Financial Secretary's Report, and the Memorial/Restricted Funds Report. After a discussion of the envelope giving being lower than at this time last year and the need to watch this carefully, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you messages were read from: the staff of Reformation Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, Pastor John Shallow of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Peshtigo, Major Cox of the Salvation Army, Pastor David Larson of Lutheran Social Services, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the family of Leona Buckland, the family of Clarence Winchester, the Krupski family, and Elaine Van Effen. A sample of an envelope for Seminarian Support from First Lutheran Church was also received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship & Music: Don A. reported that the Altar Guild would like to try switching to plastic communion cups and that he can currently get some at a very good sale price. The committee has also added a line to the end of the Baptism service and will be placing Bibles in the Narthex for those people who would like to use them on Sunday. The committee is still discussing the purchase of new hymnals but will wait to make a decision until we have a new pastor. They also discussed the Monday night service for this coming summer.

Christian Education: Don N. reported that his committee has recommended continuing with the "Here We Stand" confirmation program. He will also rearrange the rotation of the confirmation lesson schedule to make better use of the allotted time.

Stewardship & Social Ministry: Bob S. reported that these committees recommend funding the 2008 Synod Leadership Conference for the amount of \$3,000.00.

Social Ministry & Evangelism: These committees would like to explore the possibility of sponsoring some type of jail ministry. They would like to buy copies of the book In the Grip of Grace to be given to the inmates. They have also been discussing the possibility of having an Adult Sunday School class and ways to make visitors to our church feel

more welcome. They are thinking of having a breakfast or brunch after Easter. Other suggestions by Council members included having different colored name badges for visitors, giving new members more information on the finances of the church, and developing a New Member informational packet to be given to new and prospective members.

OLD BUSINESS: Reading material for the Council was discussed. Bob S. suggested Reclaiming the "C" Word by Kelly Fryer which Pastor Andersen also recommended as being very challenging. This book is actually a sequel to Reclaiming the "L" Word which Pastor Andersen said is also very good. Deanne suggested that we read the books being purchased for the inmates and then donating them to the jail. Karen D. suggested that we either read Luther's Small Catechism or Sacred Pathways by Gary Thomas. Sacred Pathways was the book chosen by the Council. Karen D. will order 18 copies.

Pastor Peterson has been going through the church rolls. They will also be looked at by Jeanne & Sandy. He has also put together a letter to be sent to members who no longer attend Bethany.

NEW BUSINESS: Bob Sovey moved and Paul C. seconded that we approve all committee members subject to making sure that those members whose terms have expired are willing to continue to serve. The motion passed.

Darrell moved and Paul C. seconded that Don A. be allowed to purchase the new plastic communion glasses. The motion passed. Tim made the suggestion that the Bibles placed in the Narthex should be the same version as the Readings printed in the bulletin. Bob G. moved and Ann seconded that there should be no Monday services planned for this summer until we have a new pastor. The motion passed.

Don N. moved and Darrell seconded that we approve the allocation of \$3,000.00 for the 2008 Synod Leadership Conference. The motion passed.

Tim reported that two of the printers in the office need to be replaced. Ann volunteered to have her husband, Lance, look at all of the computers to see what is needed. He will have a recommendation for the April meeting.

The committee to review and possibly revise the Constitution will be made up of Bob S., Darrell, and Paul C.

Karen D. suggested that we think about having a church retreat at Marygrove--possibly for the three Escanaba ELCA Churches. She also has information on a women's retreat to be held there on March 27-28. Pastor Andersen also suggested having a joint meeting of the three ELCA Church Councils.

The next regular meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, April 9, at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen L. Caswell. Secretary