

# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

## Monday, May 14, 2007

**PRESENT:** Council Members Sandy Anderson, Darrell Casperson, Karen Caswell, Doug Leisenring, Mary Maercklein, Tim Mulvaney, Don Nyquist, Deanne O'Dell, Trina Pearson, and Bob Sovey; staff members Don Aronson, Sandy Flinn, Jeanne Sauter, and Pastor Andersen

**ABSENT:** Paul Carne, Karen DeZiel, Bob Gregg, Ann Rath, and Raquel Zelenak

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

**DEVOTIONS:** Devotions were presented by Sandy A. who used a selection from Max Lucado's book, Grace, a quote from Mother Teresa, and James 1:2 as inspiration to share with us that God never gives us more than we can handle and that we never have to try to earn His love even in very difficult and stressful times.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Deanne O. and seconded by Mary M. to accept the minutes of the April 9 Council meeting as read. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Doug L. and seconded by Mary M. to accept the Treasurer's Report, Financial Secretary's Report, and the Memorial/Restricted Funds Report. Pastor Peterson needs to have some questions answered by the Thrivent Representative before he can finalize the new format for the Treasurer's Report. The Bethany Scholarship Fund amount is not quite up-to-date as the most current figures have not been received yet. The motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you messages were read from: the Community Action Agency, Global Health Ministries, and Judy Pearson. A request for financial assistance was read from the NMU Campus Ministry for three students who will be attending an immersion project sponsored by Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in June.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Social Ministry & Evangelism:** Bob S. reported that work continues on the "Meet Our Members" display for both new and current members. The information to be included in the display has been decided upon. Current families will be selected on a random basis-- a few each month. There will be a letter in the "Echo" about the project after Pastor Mai arrives.

Jeanne S. reported that Pastor Mai would like to have a new pictorial directory. She feels that this can be started on this fall. Pastor Andersen strongly recommended that we use a professional company rather than trying to do it by ourselves.

Don A. reported that Pastor Mai will do the Liturgy and Scripture portions of the service himself during the summer, but he will need someone to assist with serving Communion of the first Sundays of July, August, and September. Sandy A., Mary M., and Doug L. volunteered to assist. Tim M. will talk with Pastor Mai about having the Monday night services start in July.

**SACRED PATHWAYS:** Chapters 3 & 4 on Sensates and Traditionalists were discussed. Members reported a wide variety of scores on affinity for these types of worship styles. It was agreed that members are learning much about themselves and each other. Chapters 5 & 6 will be read for next month's meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Jean Sovey, Florence & Bud Bessonon, and Pastor Peterson will be Bethany's delegates to Synod Convention.

Sandy F. has received two \$10.00 checks in restitution for the vandalism damage. It was suggested that this could be used for the Jail Ministry. Tim M. reported that there are no worship services at the jail anymore due to security issues. Tim will look into having Butch Kidd, who coordinates the jail ministry, come to a Council meeting to tell us what they might need.

Darrell C. reported that the installation of insulation in the parsonage is complete. Jeanne S. will check on the need for carpet cleaning, window washing, bathroom cleaning, and refrigerator stocking before the Mai family arrives. It was suggested that Leigh Schmidt be contacted about acquiring a few bottles of his wine with appropriate labels and that Escanaba T-shirts be purchased for the family.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Tim M. reported that Pastor Mai and his family are willing to move their belongings themselves and provided a breakdown of the moving costs. Sandy A. moved and Darrell C. seconded that up to \$1200.00 be allowed for this move. The motion carried. The Mai family will be arriving on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 12. Jeanne S. will order food from D&M Subs for the church members who will be here to help the family move into the parsonage.

Tim M. reported that the compressor in the church kitchen refrigerator gave out and needed to be replaced immediately at a cost of \$900.00.

Mary M. moved and Deanne O. seconded to move next month's Council meeting from June 11 to June 18 so that Pastor Mai can be included. The motion carried. Pastor Peterson will give an update on the new financial report forms and his progress on culling the church rolls at this meeting.

It was decided to decline on the request for financial assistance to the NMU Campus Ministry students. It was suggested, however, that a fund for that type of request be considered for inclusion in next year's budget.

A special coffee hour in honor of Pastor Mai and his family will be held after the worship service on June 17. Jeanne S. is coordinating the food for the reception following Pastor Mai's Installation on June 24. Tim M. will invite the pastors who have preached here on a regular basis for the past two years to attend the Installation. Doug L. moved and Darrell C. seconded that the offering from the Installation be given to the Northern Great Lakes Synod Scholarship Fund. The motion carried.

Doug L. explained a program by Dave Ramsey, a financial planner, that is geared toward teaching fiscal responsibility to young people with a Christian emphasis. He suggested that Bethany might want to offer this program and volunteered to coordinate it. It was decided that this might be a good idea. It will be referred to the Stewardship Committee and discussed with Pastor Mai.

The next regular meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, June 18, at 7:00 PM. Deanne O. will have the devotions.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen L. Caswell, Secretary