

# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

## Monday, June 18, 2007

**PRESENT:** Paul Carne, Darrell Casperson, Karen Caswell, Karen DeZiel, Mary Maercklein, Time Mulvaney, Don Nyquist, Deanne O'Dell, Trina Pearson, Ann Rath, Bob Sovey, and Raquel Zelenak; staff members Don Aronson, Sandy Flinn, Jeanne Sauter, and Pastor Mai

**ABSENT:** Sandy Anderson, Bob Gregg, and Doug Leisenring

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

**DEVOTIONS:** Devotions were presented by Deanne O. who used a selection by Joyce Meyer based on a portion of 1st Thessalonians. The selection reminded us to faithfully give thanks each day. Deanne felt that this was especially appropriate as we welcomed our new pastor to our midst.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Karen D. and seconded by Darrell C. to accept the minutes of the May 14 Council meeting as read. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Paul C. and seconded by Ann R. to accept the Treasurer's Report, Financial Secretary's Report and the Memorial/Restricted Funds Report. Sandy F. reported that Pete Sundholm will get an explanation of the Trust Fund as several items have been combined and clarification is needed. The motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you messages were read from: the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Donald Hallberg, Exec. Director for Development Services, ELCA, Blake Carlyon, Leah Lindahl, and Sue Roll's cousin, Erik. A request was read from Bishop Skrenes for financial support for the renovation of the Synod office in Marquette. A letter was read from the ELCA Mission Partners Task Force explaining the sharing of the Eucharistic vessels from the International Center of Bethlehem.

Volunteers will be needed to attend the 10:00 AM service at Salem Lutheran Church in Bark River on July 1 to receive the Eucharistic vessels. Several Council members indicated an interest in going.

**SACRED PATHWAYS:** Tim M. asked Karen D. to give some background on the book and to explain why we had chosen to read it. Tim also told Pastor Mai about some of the other books the Council has studied in past years. This month's worship types were Ascetics and Activists. The discussion centered on the need for diversity in our thinking and how reading the book makes it possible for many different types of people to find ways to worship--even those who are not regular church goers. Chapters 7 & 8 will be discussed at the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Tim M. shared a notice of Certificate Maturity from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. We currently have \$12,231.12 in this fund. Pastor Mai explained that these investments are used to fund mission projects. Paul C. moved and Don N. seconded that we renew this investment for one year. The Finance Committee will then be asked to make further decisions about this fund. The motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Tim M. reported that the LeMire Law Office has informed the Council of a \$1,000.00 undesignated bequest from Robert Coplan. A minimum of \$100.00 will go to the Benevolence Fund. Suggestions included using a portion of it for our Synod office renovation, a scholarship for a Tanzanian college student, and the purchase of a defibrillator. It was decided to let the Social Ministry make the decision as to how the money should be spent.

Tim M. reminded Council members that Pastor Mai's Installation will be held on Sunday, June 24, at 3:00 PM. Bishop Skrenes will preach. Pastor Mai reported that Pastor Gilley and Pastor Andersen will take part in the service and that several lay members would be needed to participate in the service. Mary M., Bob S., Don N., and Paul C. volunteered.

Tim reported that the garage door opener at the parsonage needed to be replaced. This has been taken care of. Pastor Mai presented his family's moving expense report. The final amount was well under the amount the Council had allowed.

Don A. requested that a special microphone be purchased for Pastor Mai at a cost of up to \$800.00. This will be a help not only to Pastor Mai but to the students running the sound system as well. Don N. moved and Ann R. seconded that the purchase be made. The motion carried. The money will be taken from the undesignated Restricted Funds. Don also mentioned his intent to divest himself of a portion of his church duties in the coming year.

Tim M. asked the Council members to tell Pastor Mai more about themselves and to share some of their visions for the future of Bethany. At the end of the introductions, Tim reminded everyone of the wonderful opportunity for growth that is now facing Bethany. He shared his hope that all church members would continue to participate in the workings of the church as actively as many people did when we were without a pastor.

Pastor Mai shared with the Council some of the trials that he has faced in his life for the past year and also shared his belief in God's plan that he and Bethany were meant to wait for each other. He also spoke of his desire to help Bethany grow, citing one of his heroes, the disciple, Andrew, who invited his brother, Peter, to come with him to meet Jesus. Pastor Mai led the Council members in prayer.

The next regular meeting of the Council will be held in August. Bob Sovey will have the devotions.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen L. Caswell, Secretary