



## Congregational Council Meeting Minutes January 24, 2009

### **Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
Peter Geisendorfer-Lindgren	X	
Karen Geisendorfer-Lindgren	X	
Phil Dell	X	
David Lippitt		X
Todd Buegler	X	
Joan Freeberg	X	
Al Albrecht	X	
Kris BJORKE		X
Tom Brady	X	
Lisa Toms	X	
Lisa Gedker	X	
Tim Jenneke		X
John Hanson	X	
Jason McCarty	X	
Jennifer Baldwin	X	
Roger Seim	X	
Katrina Bahen	X	

Joan Freeberg called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Joan Freeberg offered devotions:

She read Psalm 25, and talked about asking for God's guidance in our lives.

### **Council Action:**

- Minutes of the December 16th, 2008 Congregational Council Meeting were reviewed for accuracy.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY AL ALBRECHT, SECONDED BY JASON MCCARTY TO APPROVE THE December 16th 2008 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. MOTION PASSED.

- Sign up for January Offering passed around
- December financial summary
  - Peter discussed the effects of the economy on the financials.
  - Fall of 2008 was the best LOL has ever had.
  - LOL seems well positioned with a capital reserve.
- Review and Approve Budget
  - The group reviewed the budget and the notes that were provided.



- The long-term Columbarium budget was discussed.
- Staff salaries will stay flat for 2009. Staff health care costs will rise.
- A human resource consultant position is being pursued for 2009.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROGER SEIM, SECONDED BY AL ALBRECHT TO APPROVE THE 2009 CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET. MOTION PASSED.

- Discuss Congregational Meeting agenda
  - Approve 2009 Budget
  - Campus Development Update
  - Peter will present both items at the Congregational Meeting tomorrow.
  - Peter gave an update of the Campus Development activities.
  - The group discussed membership, non-member involvement and our focus as a church in engaging people.
- Ends Policy Monitoring Schedule
  - The Campus Development Ends Policy group will work this spring on a proposed Ends Policy monitoring schedule.

#### **Center for Changing Lives Tour:**

- Jeri Nelsen, the Director of the Center for Changing Lives talked to the group about the center and guided a tour through the building, including Messiah Lutheran, Kaleidoscope, Suitably Yours, and Lutheran Social Services facilities.

#### **Learning Time:** (Discussion on Follow Me book, led by Pastor Phil)

- After working in small groups, Pastor Phil led the whole group through a discussion of the book and study guide.

#### **Staff Reports:**

##### **Peter: (State of the Church)**

- Peter talked about the country's economic situation and the potential effects on the church and our members.
- The spirit at Lord of Life is strong.
- The pastoral staff, and the staff overall work well and have fun together.
- "Gather Joyfully, Grow Spiritually, Go Faithfully" is still a valid mission, and is integrated into much of our programming.
- 171 baptisms in 2008. Baptisms can be an indicator of church growth. Of the 171 baptisms, 135 became members.
- 37 confirmands (about 25%) were not members of LOL.
- 390 people attended new member classes in 2008. The class schedule was changed to once per month.
- 12 members rejoined in 2008.



- In 2008, LOL gained 592 new members overall, for net gain of about 500 in 2008, for a total of about 8,000 members.
- There were fewer weddings in 2008 (31), and more funerals (33) than ever before.
- 6,500 people attended Christmas worship services. 1,900 people attended the 4:00 service, the most attended service in LOL history.
- The Carver governance model is transitioning slower than we originally expected. Other churches are now exploring the model.
- Campus Development Group is meeting regularly, and is basing their work based on the Campus Development Ends Policy that was created this fall.
- Caring Community Ends Policy – Pastor David has undertaken the training of the Caring Community Ministers. The first group has completed training.
- Faith Formation Ends Policy – Children & Family and Youth & Family have been combined. Adult Ministry continues to grow.
- Culture of Generosity Ends Policy – Peter discussed the need for a strategic plan for this Ends Policy.
- Leadership Ends Policy – Council is working well with the new governance model. Many Adult Ministries leaders will attend a weekend retreat next weekend at Mt. Carmel.
- Outreach Ends Policy – The Church does very little formal marketing. Much of our outreach is through word-of-mouth of our members by inviting guests to church, hosting community funerals, and by example through serving others.
- Worship Ends Policy – The Year of the Word seems very popular. The hope is to make worship more “experiential”. Technology as a part of worship will also be pursued via video or other means.
- In 2009, Peter, the Executive Committee, and the Council will work a 10-year plan for the church called “2020 Vision”. The plan would be introduced in early 2010.

### **Adjournment**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROGER SEIM, SECONDED BY TOM BRADY TO ADJOURN THE January 24, 2009 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION PASSED. The meeting adjourned at 3:05.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jason McCarty