



Congregational Council Meeting Minutes January 23th, 2010

Attendance:

Name	Present	Not Present
Peter Geisendorfer-Lindgren	X	
Karen Geisendorfer-Lindgren	X	
Phil Dell	X	
David Lippitt	X	
Todd Buegler	X	
Laura Dirks	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	

Roger Seim called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM.

Dave Jones the hospital operations manager welcomed us.

Tom Brady offered a devotion. We are blessed with an awesome God who is mighty, powerful and merciful. He ended with a song "When God Ran" by Phillips, Craig and Dean.

Council Action:

- APPROVE MINUTES
 - Minutes of the December 15th, 2009 Congregational Council Meeting were reviewed for accuracy.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Al Albrecht, SECONDED BY Jason McCarty TO APPROVE THE December 15th, 2009 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. MOTION PASSED.

- Minutes are posted to the website for the congregation to access.



- OFFERING COLLECTION SIGNUP
 - Passed around. Roger encouraged us sign up for two services.
- December & Year-end Financial Summaries
 - Letter went out (re: year end gifts and upcoming learning opportunities), but arrived late do to changes in bulk mailing at the post office.
 - \$17,000 behind on receipts and \$100,000 under on expenses. Many pledgers exceeded their pledges.

Campus Policy Monitoring report:

- Campus Development monitoring will be different then others because council will have approval before we take any action.
- Discussed Toning down the language in Reasonable Interpretation #3.
- Financial markets are tough right now so they weigh on any decisions.
- Construction will be very busy this spring on the roads.
- Peter will provide more of an update on some of the upcoming ideas during 2020 vision later in the meeting.
- We will create a way to keep people informed about the construction.

March Council Meeting Date:

- We are switching it again and the new date is **March 30th**.

Congregational Meeting Agenda (January 24, 2010):

- Approve 2010 Budget
- Task Force Update- reiterate the process/announce input forms online or hardcopy in church office.
- 2020 Vision to be presented later in spring

Staff Updates:

- Phil
 - Working on ends policy stuff and 2020 vision
 - Budget has consumed most of his time
 - Christie Erdman is leaving for a marketing job
 - Met with the boy scouts and they are going well
- Todd
 - Retreats coming up
 - Starting summer registration
 - Elizabeth Larson is doing a great job getting up to speed
- Peter (Budget discussion)
 - Working on ends policy and 2020 vision
 - Thinks it's a really good budget
 - We balanced this year's budget without using the cash forward.



- The cash forward helps us start the year and acts as a cushion going forward.
 - We are giving a 2% raise to the staff. Most churches are cutting staff or cutting salaries across the board. We have not given any increases since 2007 and felt it was time to give a raise. (Each % costs us \$16,000). Benefit costs are going up as well.
 - If you take all of the staff costs out of the budgets many of the program budgets are decreasing.
 - On the income side we got some good results from the letters that went out. The biggest jump we saw was increases from individuals who give on ACH.
 - We have a lot of people who pledged last year, who didn't pledge this year.
 - Total benevolence dollars are a % of previous years pledged and identified dollars. (11.2%)
- David
 - Psalms bible study going well
 - Couples retreat in Feb
 - Abundant life is expanding to include teenagers
 - Karen
 - Adult ministries retreat and prayer ministry retreat coming up in Feb
 - Exodus all group study for Lent

Learning Time-Bible & Homosexuality (with Task Force Members):

- Cindy Wilke, Gretchen Peel, Joel Amundson, and Joan Freeberg joined us for the discussion.
- We discussed last Tuesday's event.
- Discussion followed on numerous topics around this issue.
- We may need to change some ends policies after this, but need to see this process out before we make those changes.

2010 Budget follow-up

- Benevolence Policy Discussion (Karen)
 - Reviewed benevolence mission
 - Overview of benevolence team and current projects
 - Review of synod benevolence as a % of our total benevolence
 - We have leaned toward supporting our members in their individual missions and away from the ELCA as a percentage piece.
 - Do we want to have continuity with our members or do we want to look at having new individuals.
 - Maybe we put in term limits for the individuals to get more people involved.
 - For this year we will keep the team as a whole and then rotate one person out a year with each new member coming on for a 3 year term.



- ELCA requests more than we give them.
- Copies of the benevolence policy will be available tomorrow.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Al Albrecht, SECONDED BY Jason McCarty TO APPROVE three year term limits for members of the benevolence committee. Members may serve 2 terms. The current members will serve this year and then self select who has 1 2 or 3 years remaining so that we have one new member each year. MOTION PASSED.

State of the Church and 2020 Vision

- Peter presented the first go around to the council and then the staff. He will then collect feedback and finalize for presentation to the congregation

Open Forum- Budget, Resolutions, Policies, 2020 Vision, General

- A few council members shared their thoughts about the day and the 2020 vision.

Adjournment

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Tim Jenneke, SECONDED BY Al Albrecht TO ADJOURN THE January 23rd, 2010 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION PASSED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:50.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting February 23, 2010. 7:00

Respectfully submitted, Tim Jenneke☺