

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting date: October 11, 2009

Call to Order

Roll Call: X indicates member(s) not present

<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Hayes	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt McCoy	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Rife	<input type="checkbox"/> Pastor
<input type="checkbox"/> Nicole Parish	<input type="checkbox"/> Lyle Gernand	<input type="checkbox"/> Kate Scott	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Holman*
<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Peter**	<input type="checkbox"/> Barb Brewster	X Chuck Landis	X Samantha McCoy

* Denotes Congregational Treasurer ** Denotes Youth Liaison

Devotions: Tom Hayes led Devotions from scripture and from a devotional booklet

Concerns Expressed To Council by Virginia Klemens

Virginia Klemens asked to have a few minutes of Council's time to express three concerns.

Virginia stated that she did not agree with Tom Hayes using the President's Letter in last month's newsletter to express his personal opinion regarding church-wide assembly's adoption of the social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust". Virginia said that Faith should have a conversation about this social statement (and that Tom is entitled to his opinion about it) but that the opinion would have been better expressed in some venue other than the President's Letter (for example, an editorial), due to it possibly misleading others into thinking that Tom's position is the official position of Faith.

Lyle Gernand asked Virginia if Tom's disclaimer at the end of the Letter was sufficient to address her concerns. Virginia stated that it was not.

Tom stated the intent of the President's Letter was to raise the issue, because no one at Faith was talking about it.

Virginia stated she shared her concerns with Tom privately before discussing them with the full Council.

Virginia stated she was also meeting with Council as a representative from the Older, Wiser Lutherans (O.W.L.s) to express concern regarding visitation of shut-ins and inactive members. Virginia stated that some shut-ins may be experiencing memory problems which prevent them from remembering who visited and who did not. Virginia proposed that a visitation team be created (combining members of the O.W.L.s with Council members). Virginia suggested that a visitation calendar (documenting visitation) be created as a method of accountability.

Council discussed with Virginia that Pastor often provides Council a report of members visited and to-be-visited as part of his Pastor's report to Council each month.

Virginia stated that she would be happy to play a role in the coordination of visitation teams, but that additional help would be needed as well.

Kate Scott stated that she felt concerned that we consider visitation or other outreach to unchurched preschool families.

Virginia concluded her discussion with Council by stating that the Center for Lay Ministries is almost-exclusively run by volunteers, and that she would like for a C.L.M. volunteer recognition luncheon to be held at Faith in the near future. She stated as the C.L.M. transitions to a new Executive Director, she would like to invite the C.L.M. to have a board meeting at Faith and further get to know the church.

Council discussed that the Patti Smith has a calendar to coordinate scheduling of church space, and referred Virginia to Patti to proceed with scheduling these events.

Approval of Minutes from previous Council Meeting: A motion to approve minutes was made by Eric Peter. The motion was seconded by Matt McCoy and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Holman provided the Treasurer's report. Faith's checking balance as of the end of September was \$19,893.59. However, expenses for September exceeded income (\$13,829.55 in expenses, \$12,975.85 in income). Eric Peter motioned that the report be filed subject to audit ("approved"). Kate Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Secretary's Report: Scott Rife reported that giving in July, August, and September failed to meet the \$3,625.35 needed to meet Faith's expenses. Lyle made a motion to approve to Financial Secretary's report. Kate Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report: Tom reported on the recent property team work day and the recent contemporary liturgy held during the Sunday service.

Team Reports:

Stewardship Team: Scott reported that he was currently about half-way through with the stewardship campaign and the next installment would be next week. Council members thanked Scott and Pastor for their work in selecting this year's stewardship campaign.

Worship & Music Team: Barb Brewster reported that the organ repairman was here on Thursday, and that he fixed the broken speakers. Barb stated that she would be away the next two Sundays, and that Becky Hall would be substituting on her behalf. Barb stated that a Worship & Music Team meeting would be held in early November.

Property Management Team:

Lyle stated that the Property Team recently held a successful outside work day. Lyle stated that today he changed the boiler over from cooling to heating. Council discussed possible ways of adjusting temperature (as needed) in the choir area. Lyle reported that the exterminator recently came to spray, and that ants have again been detected around the area of the water fountain and around the preschool.

Christian Education Team: Pastor stated that Carol Taylor has arranged a meeting to be held Monday 11/2. Kate discussed the need to contact unchurched preschool parents to invite them to attend Faith. Barb stated that preschool parents are sent the church newsletter.

Youth: Eric Peter discussed the new Youth Handbook. Eric stated that Youth needs volunteers to chaperone the upcoming "lock-in" activity (12 a.m.,-7 a.m. "Halloween Morning" – the night of 10/30 to the morning of 10/31). Eric said that only youth from Faith would be in attendance at this "lock-in". Eric said that he was planning to be at the event the entire night. Council discussed that there would continue to be a Halloween fun fest for smaller children this year. Eric said there will be a youth meeting for November at the Halloween party.

Eric mentioned several upcoming Youth events. On 11/13, Faith's annual turkey dinner will be held (with youth preparing and serving the meal). On 12/6, youth will be wrapping angel tree ornaments. On 12/12, youth will be assisting with Loaves & Fishes.

Parish Life & Outreach Team: Nicole Parish said the upcoming Octoberfest/ Fall Fest will be held this coming Saturday (10/17). Members of Faith are requested to bring a side dish (meat and dessert will be provided). Council discussed that one of the activities at this event will be making harvest baskets for shut-ins.

Mutual Ministry Team: Pastor said the Mutual Ministry Team will meet Monday 10/26 at 6:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report: Pastor provided a verbal (rather than written) report this month. Pastor reported on who he has visited and who he will be visiting this week.

Pastor reported on the recent Professional Leadership Conference held at Clifty Falls State Park (near Madison, Indiana). Pastor stated that the Bishop could not be there due to death of his mother. Pastor stated that the event focused on ways we can be missionary centers as congregations.

Pastor stated the conference also discussed practices in worship, including using technology in worship and making each local parish as "local" as possible.

Pastor stated that there has been concern expressed in our Synod regarding recent decisions made at the church-wide assembly regarding the adoption of the social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust". Pastor stated the Bishop will be going to seven different sites to talk about "where do we go from here?" based on decisions that have been made at church-wide assembly.

Pastor stated that one ELCA congregation near Jasper had voted about three years ago to leave the ELCA if church-wide assembly ever adopted a social statement similar to the one that recently adopted. Pastor stated that that congregation (near Jasper) is planning to leave ELCA.

Pastor stated that there will be several matters to iron out in how the new social statement will be implemented (for

example, the respecting of the bound consciences of congregations not in agreement with the statement as well as how the ELCA can logistically even begin the process of rostering clergy in lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships.)

Moving on to other matters, Pastor said that a workshop would be held in March, 2010 regarding the use of new technologies in worship.

Old Business:

Council discussed the continuing need to procure new signs for the intersection of 10th street and Allison Lane (as well as the other end of 10th Street) to replace signs that have an excessive amount of wear.

Lyle stated he had not yet gotten a quote for window replacement costs, but that he was expecting to in the near future.

New Business:

Tom discussed possibly moving the Contemporary Service to a new day and time to attract a larger congregation. One idea expressed was to move the contemporary service to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. Council agreed to table this for now to consider when the best time to schedule the service might be.

Pastor discussed the availability of a recently refurbished copy machine. Pastor stated that our current system of producing the newsletter is more expensive than it would be to produce the newsletter ourselves using an improved copier. Pastor provide Council details of the savings and Council members agreed that the refurbished copier could save over \$1,000 a year.

Council discussed the need to consider our contractual obligations with T&L printing.

Kate made a motion to investigate this matter further and table the matter for future discussion. Lyle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kate also discussed a new venture called "Faithful Losers". Kate said the program would be for Christians in the Jeffersonville area interested in integrating their Christianity into their weight loss program. Kate said that she would be providing more information about this in future meetings.

Tom Hayes adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Next Council meeting: Sunday November 8th

Minutes Faithfully submitted,

Nicole Parish