

Minutes of Congregational Council meeting, January 23, 2005

Attending:

Bob Rhyne
Jack Heberlig
Mark Elgart
Margaret Howell
Pastor Graff
Rodney Murray
Don Keen
Carol Schmauch
Tom Frick
Gregg Borachok
Linda Moresi
Charles Berry

GUEST SPEAKER – MARGARET HOWELL

First item on the agenda was the discussion on a letter received from Mette Andersen on a ministry called “Time Out Youth”. Our guest speaker, Margaret Howell explained to the group and read a letter from Mette Andersen on the function of this group. This is an organization that provides support, emergency housing/crisis assistance and a speaker’s bureau for the safe, temporary housing for youth who for one way or another are kicked out of their homes because of real or perceived sexual orientation.

This organization is requesting our support as a church. Community religious organizations have not been supportive of this ministry. The discussion was bringing Matte in front of the counsel or church to explain how this organization works and how St Luke’s can help.

One of the questions brought up by Jack Heberlig was to be sure that we know why only 10% of the churches accepted this organization and before we endorse this group, to check into it further. Margaret Howell is on the board of Time Out Youth.

PRAYER AND DEVOTION WAS OFFERED BY PASTOR GRAFF

After the devotion, pastor read us some announcements on upcoming events: (1) a Lutheran mission on February 5 in Newton, do we want to send someone. The bishop would like a response back on who will be attending. (2) A letter from the Bishop on an ELCA Task Force on human sexuality in the church. And (3) a finances in line workshop, February 3 – 5 at Christ Lutheran Church. Pastor would like someone to attend this workshop. Also, to get the word out on Lenten program coming up on Wednesday evenings: Entitled: “Voices of those who knew him” series with someone portraying the people who knew Jesus.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President: - Bob Rhyne
Vice Presidents (2): Charlotte Fairman and Rodney Murray
Secretary: Carol Schmauch
Treasurer: Jack Heberlig
Christian Education: Linda Moresi
Evangelism – Charlotte Fairman
Finance: Gregg Borachok
Property: Gale Begalla
Social Ministries – Don Keen
Stewardship – Charles Berry
Worship and Music – Rodney Murray
Youth – Mark Elgart and Amanda Trombley

Emphasis was placed on people in positions where their strengths lie.

It was also emphasized that the council members act as a liaison between the council members and the church members and keep the line of communication and dialogue open between the two.

OLD BUSINESS

The first discussion was alternating the meetings between Monday at 6:15 and Sunday afternoons at 12:15. We elected to try this out.

Emphasis was placed on being sure that the youth ministry becomes operational as soon as possible. Linda Moresi brought up adult ministry as she thought there was a crisis in this area. We felt we needed more emphasis on adult education.

Don McConnell who has very instrumental in working with the youth should sit in with the committee and help guide us in working with the youth ministry. Bob Rhyne also stated that we need to get more people in the pews.

Jack Heberlig suggested that we get someone to help with the finances and Bob suggested that Gale be a good candidate to help in this area. Gregg Borachok will focus on following the finance activities.

It was brought up how wonderful the finance committee work that Abby Kerr completed as chairman.

Archives were turned over to Carol and Hubert Schmauch to provide both hard copy and computer input to keep up with the events of the church. Tom Frick mentioned the corner stone and keeping info in the lock box. Needed to inventory the lock box and be sure that newsletters, bulletins, baptizing financial records are keep up to date.

NEW BUSINESS

In new business: there is a congregational meeting on February 6, 2005 to approve the by-laws and obtain approval to form a search committee to address a call for an associate pastor. .

In keeping the church members notified of upcoming congregational meetings and constitutional changes, the church members need to be notified at least 30 days in advance of constitutional changes and 10 days for congregational meetings and by-laws. Mail needs to be sent first class as bulk mailings do not always arrive in a timely manner.

Associate ministry has been budgeted not to replace Margaret as her job as Chaplain is very vital to the church as Margaret works about 40 hours a week. The budget would be to provide an associate pastor as well as keep Margaret. A job description was brought up not only for the new associate pastor but for the rest of the church staff. This is supposed to be in the works. It is important that the associate pastor be involved not only with the youth as well events of the church. Margaret interacts with the youth as well as the elderly and her music ministry. Hopefully we can retain Margaret as a full-time person to help with the youth as well as her Chaplain duties.

Linda, Mark and Rodney brought up the budget in obtaining an associate pastor and a full-time Chaplain.

There will be a call committee set up to interview for an associate pastor and the target date was June or the fall to get an associate pastor. Don Keen brought up the cost package being set at \$44,773 with four weeks vacation. Be sure we got someone experienced for that package.

Linda brought up the 75th anniversary and money was set aside and left over for lights in the sanctuary and to vote for approval to order the lights. The amount was \$19,000. The council asked where this money came from and Jack explained there were line items grouped together to put this money into one line item. A big discussion ensued among the counsel as to where this money came from and if we actually had the money or if this was part of the operating budget or coming from debt reduction. Bob insisted that the money was in the bank at RBC. Jack stated that we need to enter the monies correctly so that we can keep enough cash to continue to operate the church. Linda recommended we should start on these lights now as the cost would continue to grow if we did not. It was also planned that \$2,000 per month would go to the debt reduction. It was approved by the council by a 5 to 4 vote to go ahead and order the lights at a cost of \$18,977.09. It will take up to six to eight weeks to get the lights installed.

Next item was to approve the annual housing allowance for the pastor pursuant to section 107 of the IRS.

Meeting was then adjourned.