

MINUTES CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 20, 2005

Attendees:

Bob Rhyne
Pastor Graff
Don Keen
Charlotte Fairman
Charles Berry
Mark Elgart
Gail Begalia
Jack Heberlig
Carol Schmauch
Rodney Murray
Greg Borachak
Ben Bellury
Linda Moresi

PRAYER – BOB RHYNE

OLD BUSINESS – MINUTES WERE APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Borachak informed the council that the contributions are under for this year. We are still in the hole for this year and if pledges and contributions are not up for the year 2006 we will need to cut back to make budget.

Jack Heberlig said that the next two weeks we need to get our pledges to 80 – 85% to meet the budget. At present the pledges are at 59%.

The executive committee was asked about a heat exchanger to be repaired for \$3,000 or a new one for \$13,000, but the budget will not allow us to do this so we are without a heat exchanger for the classrooms downstairs.

On our cash flow, we only have two weeks left to meet the payroll and bills.

Pastor suggested a capital fund drive, but until we get our pledges in, this will have to be put on a back burner as this would conflict with our pledge drive.

It was suggested to that the week after Thanksgiving to start calling people about their pledge.

Mark Elgart was asked about how the AIM search is going. We have been talking to someone from Lancaster Pennsylvania and there are plans to meet with this person within the next few weeks.

Mark also said that the retreat for the youth with Don McConnell was a big success.

We need to get a youth program going as we are losing members to other churches as young families are looking to get their children involved in youth programs.

Charlotte has organized a yellow bag to give out to visitors which consist of brochures on the church, a coffee cup, color coded brochure on the church. When they become new members we give them an acrylic cross which is put into a gift bag. At the end of the year we have a luncheon which is scheduled for December 18 for our new members.

Gail was asked about our air conditioning/heating company which is Environmental Services. There was a meeting which went well as they know our system. However a suggestion was to go with someone else.

Linda Moresi told us that Crossways will be starting in January. Also a new class with Ben Bellury has been started. Pastor Fisher's class on the "The Cross and the Swastika" was a big success.

Also coming up on December 11 is the Advent Fair and on December 18 is the children's pageant.

A discussion was brought up on our giving to the benevolence to the Synod. We are not doing this at present because of the lack of funds. We need to decide for future to either bring in more money or cut that out.

The volunteer hours are increasing and are a tremendous help to the church.

Since we are struggling, we may have to pick and choose which programs the church will be able to support.

Don Keen said that the Room In the Inn is progressing, however, it is very very difficult to get team leaders. Margaret will be the coordinator, but we still need team leaders.

Rodney Murray said that the Alter Guild has a wish list of oil candles, a stand and an alter cloth. A suggestion was made to have a memorial gift to the church to get these items. Also the poinsettia plants, if we do not get enough people to buy the plans will the church council pick up the difference.

Also there will be changes on the website beginning November 27.

Bob read us a letter from Margaret to move the Room in the Inn to the Parrish Hall to make it more convenient for our guests to be able to take a shower. Don said that he would get with Margaret and have a meeting as to the best way to serve our guests. Pastor brought up having two or one services on Christmas and New Year's Day. The motion was made by Rodney and seconded by Gail to have only one service on those days at 10:00 am.

The church received a letter from ELCA regarding World Hunger. Pastor offered a suggestion that we designate the linden offerings to World Hunger instead of Habitat for Humanity. A suggestion was made to have boxes given to the congregation to fill and bring back by a certain date.

Pastor brought up some suggestions on a new banner for the front. "Come and See" a generic, "Christ is Born", for Christmas, "Mid week Lenten Service", "He is Risen" for Easter.

Also that the sign in the corner out front be more eye catching to people passing by.

We ended the meeting by finding a good place for our AIM person. Perhaps the team room to give them privacy. Need to know by December 3.

Meeting was adjourned.