

Congregational Council Meeting Minutes

November 30, 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	
Tom Campbell		X
Kris Bjorke		X
Tom Brady	X	
Lisa Toms	X	
Lisa Gedker	X	
Tim Jenneke	X	
John Hanson	X	
Jason McCarty	X	
Barb Lindberg	X	
Kent Mainquist	X	
Katrina Bahen	X	

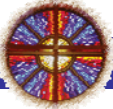
Guest in attendance: Dave McCarty, Pastoral Intern

Tim Jenneke called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Jason McCarty AND SECONDED BY John Hanson TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 30th MEETING.

Devotion and Learning Time – Dr. Rick Bliese, President of Luther Seminary

- Dr. Rick Bliese offered a devotion on the season of Advent. He spoke about Advent being the curious and mysterious time in between Thanksgiving and Christmas – a time of waiting. He referred to several of the Psalms as his favorite advent texts, and talked about the importance of using worship to help people learn to wait faithfully, for the Joy is coming.
- Dr. Bliese also thanked Lord of Life for generosity to the Seminary, and expressed appreciation for the many connections between the Lord of Life congregation and the Seminary and students. He presented Lord of Life with a plaque of appreciation from the Seminary.
- It is an exciting time of fluidity for Luther Seminary, and the hope is that the school will be one of those that thrives, due in part to relationships with vibrant congregations. Full-time enrollment is growing, as is the percentage of Ecumenical students, and those in the Long Distance learning program. This year will see a building project on Campus for the first time in 25 years.

**Council Action:**

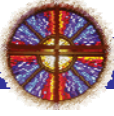
- APPROVE MINUTES
 - Minutes of the October 26th, 2010 Congregational Council Meeting were reviewed for accuracy.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Tom Brady, SECONDED BY Laura Dirks TO APPROVE THE October 26th, 2010 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES. MOTION PASSED.

- OFFERING COLLECTION SIGNUP FOR DECEMBER.
 - Passed around.
- FINANCIAL REPORT
 - We have a good financial report! Receipts are above budget at this point, in spite of some low attendance due to weather. Expenditures are under budget YTD. We are getting stock gifts again this year, after a slow couple of years.

Ends Policy Monitoring:

- WORSHIP
 - Pastor Phil presented us with a progress report.
 - Monitoring report
 - People like worshipping here. Worship and music continue to be high points for the congregation.
 - Worship staff put much time and effort into planning and getting the worship staff right.
 - The staff spends lots of time listening to needs of members, and has enhanced opportunities for participation in worship. Changes have included new bulletins, musical groups, and additional testimonials.
 - Media in worship has been an issue. We may include funds in the Capital campaign to upgrade our media opportunities.
 - We continue to explore the variety of worship services we offer and when they are offered.
 - Attendance at worship has been fairly flat over the past 5 years. We need to find ways to increase attendance.
 - Points raised:
 - Comments on surveys appear to largely balance each other.
 - A major use of the website is to download the sermon.
 - How do we evaluate the health of the congregation if people are becoming more virtual in their activity?
 - Is there a goal for offering a youth/young adult-based or alternative worship experience?
 - Another option is to provide a family worship service for families with young children.
 - A service for Seniors is another idea. Possibly services at their residence locations.
 - Would offering other types of services increase attendance or distribute current attendance?
 - Considerations are primarily time, space and staff.



- New liturgy – comments both positive and negative. Music has been provided in the worship books. We will continue to use the new liturgy this year and monitor its' success. The new liturgy is more traditionally Lutheran in style than our previous contemporary liturgy.

Campus Update:

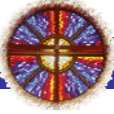
- Campus Development - Jason McCarty, Tim Jenneke, Pastor Peter, Pastor Phil, John Merken, Alan Black, Jim Klande
 - It has been a busy few weeks.
 - We did an RFP process and will be meeting with the 3 firms that provided proposals. The recommendation for selection of an architectural firm should be made by the end of this week.
 - We are also looking at general contractors.
 - We should have more information at the December meeting.
 - Building expansion conversations will be held next week with members of the congregation, leaders in the church, and Council members. We will listen to the input of all in attendance regarding ideas for the building expansion. Please RSVP with the meeting you will be attending.

Work Group Updates:

- Learning - Lisa Gedker, Lisa Toms, Laura Dirks, Pastor Karen
 - No Learning Topic for December
 - Balance of the year – TBD
- Campaign/Fundraising - Pastor Peter, Kent Mainquist, John Hanson, Barb Lindberg
 - Plan to begin work in January.
- Succession Planning and Nominating Committee - Tom Brady, Tom Campbell, Laura Dirks
 - Will begin to study the text, The Elephant in the Boardroom, Speaking the Unspoken about Pastoral Transitions.

Staff/Ministry Updates:

- Peter
 - Made the Christmas devotion videos. Trying a new method of distributing the message. Met with Bishop Mark Hanson and the Pastors of the 10 largest ELCA congregations in the country. We are doing well compared with how some other ELCA congregations are doing.
- Karen
 - Benevolence, service, new relationship with the food shelf in Greenfield. Lots of Christmas parties coming up. Christmas Families numbers have doubled since last year.



- Phil
 - Campus development. Met with three construction companies. Getting ready to begin 2011 budget. Working on new staff handbook.
- Todd
 - Confirmation weekend went well with 157 students being confirmed in their faith. 46 families enjoyed a retreat at Kalahari in WI Dells.
- David
 - David introduced us to the 9 newest Care Ministers. We now have 30+ leaders in the Care Minister program. The Ministers in this program develop relationships with people in the church in need of care, particularly those going through transitions .

Adjournment

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Lisa Toms, SECONDED BY Pastor Peter TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 30th, 2010 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION PASSED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:49 PM.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting December 14th, 2010, at Tim and Tiffany Jenneke's home at 7:00 pm.

Devotions – Barb Lindberg

December Ends Policy Monitoring - NONE

January 22nd – Council Retreat (Location TBD)

January 23rd – Congregational Meeting

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Gedker