



FARMINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING



September 8, 2009

Present: Senior Pastor Phil Walen and Treasurer Sandy Christensen; Council Members Scott Neurauter (President), Chris Birch, Vicky Cole, Rick Fencl, Tim Grundler, Gary Johnson, Sara Otterness (Vice President), Diane Randall, Phyllis Blees, Alison Wenck and Kent Porter. Absent: Council Member Jared Sachs.

CALL TO ORDER

President Neurauter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
Chris Birch read the devotions.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Neurauter asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. Birch asked to add a discussion about trees being added to grounds. Wenck requested discussion on possible advertisement for a Senior Citizens Center fundraiser. Blees made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Cole. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neurauter announced that the St. Paul Area Synod would like to send a representative to talk to the Council sometime in the future. Areas to be discussed by the Synod would be stories of missions, possible missions with congregational support, and thinking together about how to make decisions about financial giving.
The communion sign up sheet was circulated.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Secretary and Ministry Team Reports

The Secretary's Report for the August 11th regular Council meeting was approved on a motion by Fencl, seconded by Birch. Motion carried. Birch moved to approve all ministry team reports, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Christensen reported that she was feeling encouraged by the latest numbers. The report said the cash balance on August 31st was \$102,382.16, which compared to \$85,593.53 at the end of July and \$91,788.41 at the start of the year. The report showed an increase in cash of \$16,788.63 during the month of August and an overall increase in cash of \$10,593.75 for the year. Components of the cash balances included \$21,609.51 in the General Fund and \$20,202.22 in the Building Fund. The driving factor for the dramatic change between results in August versus July is the receipt of a \$15,000 contribution and a \$1,000 contribution in August for the General/Building Fund. A donation of \$20,000 was given to the Endowment Fund. The remaining cash balance of \$60,570.43 was in dedicated funds, according to the report.

The Statement of Activities showed that revenues in August totaled \$70,807.64 versus expenses of \$58,892.08 for a net positive balance of \$11,915.56. Christensen noted that Interim Pastor Gary Langness only accepted \$6,000 for his time with FLC, which less

than planned. General Fund offerings totaled \$45,026.64. Also, \$25,781 was contributed to the Building Fund as part of the large contribution. Year-to-date activities show a positive balance of \$1,071.94. Johnson pointed out that the weekly giving on average seemed to be up. Christensen noted that the Simply Giving amount has increased.

Christensen said that next month she would be distributing the ministry teams' year-to-date transactions to be reviewed for any corrections. She will also be asking the teams to review their current budget and submit next year's budget with adjustments included.

Senior Pastor

Pastor Phil Walen started by saying thanks for the warm welcome he and his wife have received. He said he had a busy first weeks making hospital visitations, meeting with the staff and OWLs, taking an in-depth facility tour, participating in the confirmation orientation, rehearsing with the choir and attending the farewell party for Doreen Bondy. Pastor Phil will be writing a contract for Sheryl Vande Kamp regarding music and worship for the next few weeks. He said he had received a request for emergency financial aid. Otterness said that it is up to the pastor's discretion regarding how the emergency fund money is dispersed.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Reports had been e-mailed by several teams and others provided verbal information.

Adult Spiritual Growth — Planned to meet the following Monday.

Children's Ministries — The team learned that summer Sunday School classes went well despite a small number of youth attending. Wednesday and Sunday School registrations were coming in. Twenty-six had attended the KiC summer pool party and bonfire. The next event would be a September 20th bowling party. The family campout was canceled because no one signed up to attend. In the Stepping Stones program, a class for kindergarten students was held August 26th with blessings scheduled at August 29th and 30th worship services. Presentation of Bibles to three-year-olds would be held on Holy Hoot-n-Anny weekend. Third grade Bible class and presentation would be schedule din October. Holy Hoot-n-Anny activities were discussed. A Love & Logic Class, partnering with the Light of the World congregation, would be held September 17th-October 15th.

Fellowship & Service — Planned to meet the following Monday. Cole thanked the Council members who helped out by furnishing treats the past few Sundays.

Global Missions — This team had held a ministry celebration and strategic planning picnic. The mission statement and committee responsibilities were reviewed. Areas of ministry that were felt to be of greatest importance were Garland Hall, Jamaica, Idete Tanzania and local ministries. The team brainstormed ideas for growth in these areas. Benevolence fund designations were reviewed. A request from Britta Peterson for financial support for her study in India through Concordia-Moorhead was approved. Twenty clothing gift cards of \$25 each would be given to schools for distribution for children who needed back-to-school clothing. Also, \$300 would be distributed for a neighboring school community for clothing. The group also discussed returning the

Synod benevolence payment to a general budget line item to encourage congregational fiscal responsibility and retain the benevolence designation for missions on offering envelopes.

Outreach & Growth — Blees said that her team had decided to do mailings to new residents of Farmington area.

Property — The team had discussed the Holy Hoot-n-Anny car show. Arrangements had been made for Farmington Fire Department equipment to be at the church from 1 to 3 p.m. It was hoped that Police equipment could be scheduled for the same time period. Plaques had been ordered for the car show. Fall clean-up day was tentatively scheduled for October 31st. Burned out lights in the parking light and main drive needed to be replaced and the icemaker needed to be cleaned. A meeting date change was discussed to encourage more attendance.

Stewardship — The team had discussed the fall campaign that would culminate November 22nd. The stewardship campaign for operating needs and the capital campaign for the building would be combined, using a bridge strategy, to get FLC through these rough economic times. A timeline for the campaign was developed.

Worship & Music — This team had discussed activities and responsibilities for the Holy Hoot-n-Anny.

Youth Ministry — Planned to meet the following Monday.

OLD BUSINESS

Holy Hoot-n-Anny plans were discussed. Randall voiced concern over the lack of responses from the ministry teams about their volunteer lists.

Constitution and By-Laws Update — A committee was still being formed.

NEW BUSINESS

Music Director Position discussion—Randall inquired about Bondy's replacements and asked if they received a stipend. Johnson said that it would be fair to pay if they were filling in for a paid position. Pastor Phil noted that it was set up that Vande Kamp would be paid \$250/service. Christensen noted that if FLC were to pay someone over \$600/year then a 1099 form would have to be filled out for tax purposes. It was agreed that some money should be given as a thank you for helping out, instead of a stipend. Porter moved to pay Ann Mikiska \$100/month for supervising the Contemporary services, seconded by Blees. Motion carried. Johnson moved that the choir director would be paid \$30 to \$50/unit depending on education and experience. (A unit is a practice or Sunday morning or Saturday night service.) Fencil seconded. Motion carried.

Church Directory Discussion – Neurauter said that there had been requests for an up-to-date-church directory. Council agreed. Neurauter said that he would check into prices.

Tree Planting Discussion—Birch informed the council that Roger Randall would like to donate and plant 10 to 12 trees on the east side of the parking lot. Johnson said that trees

had been located there in the past. Birch moved to allow Randall to plant trees on the east side of the parking lot, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried.

Advertising during worship service discussion—Wenck informed the Council that Blanche Reichert had requested that Senior Citizens Center Fundraisers be advertised during FLC worship services and that flyers be passed out at the doors. It was noted that FLC does not put non-church activities on the large screens before service nor in the bulletin. Wenck moved that flyers for the Senior Citizens Center Fundraisers could be handed out by Boy Scouts in uniform outside the front doors on Sunday, September 13th. Porter seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT & LORD’S PRAYER

Porter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m., seconded by Cole. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Wenck,
Council Secretary

Meeting Reminders:

Executive Board: Tuesday, October 6th
Council: Tuesday, October 13th