

**First English Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting
Downtown Site – August 25, 2009**

Present: Mike Lokensgard, Ellen Evensen, Steve Uslabar, Mark DesRochers, Jeff Diehl, Dean Haas, Gordy Jeppson, Kathy Larson, Dana Olson, Dong Pham, Jeff Picken, John Zweig, Pastors Bauer and Dismer

Excused: Amy Henderson, Dan Baumbach

Guests: Brenda Smongeski

Devotions: Gordy Jeppson

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 28, 2009 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Ministry Team Reports: The minutes of the Ministry Teams were presented. Discussion followed.

Treasurer's Report:

- 1) Steve Uslabar presented the following documents: Report to the FELC Council, Sunday Offering by Week, 2009 Weekly Offering, FELC 2009 Budget Summary, and Echoes Gift & Thrift. Discussion followed.
- 2) A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Report – August 10 & August 23, 2009:

- 1) Minutes from both meetings were presented.
- 2) The purpose of the meetings was to discuss (i) an issue between staff members that the Executive Committee has address and considers closed, and (ii) the staffing plan proposed by Andy Moscinski for Family & Youth Ministry.
- 3) The expectation is to provide for worship, outreach, learning and social experience within this department.
- 4) For the council's information, John will send a memo explaining the realignment changes and Andy will discuss the changes with the staff.
- 5) The personnel sub-group will establish job descriptions.
- 6) John and Brenda will discuss budget/salary concerns.

Pastor's Reports were submitted. No discussion.

Old Business:

- 1) Report/Update on ongoing issues:
 - a. Our Parish Nurse, Karen Herbrich, will be on medical unpaid leave beginning in October, at least through the end of 2009.
 - b. Volunteer help will be needed to support the ongoing needs of Karen's programs. The members of the committee that initially defined the Parish Nurse position and worked to recruit Karen will be contacted to assist. Visitations will also have to be covered by pastoral staff and volunteers.

- 2) Budget: Mike met with the staff on August 25
 - a. asking them to find ways to save money
 - b. discussed concerns/issues the staff would like to address regarding a lead pastor
 - c. explained that a transition plan is in process.
- 3) Task Force Updates:
 - a. North Site – Jeff Picken: This task force held cottage meetings and reviewed the results of the meetings and a survey. Two groups were established: one will be surveying other two site churches to assess how they are organized and the second will look for civic organizations on the north side of Appleton to see if there are ways the NS can support those organizations. More meetings are being planned and the information will be presented to the congregation at the Informational Meeting.
 - b. Communications – Mark: The task force feels like it met the goals that were set for this task force and is looking for further direction from the council. Suggestions included asking the congregation at the Informational Meeting what is the most efficient way to communicate with the congregation, and ask them how they find out what is happening in the church.
- 4) Capital Campaign follow-up – Jeff Diehl, Gordy and John: The document Capital Campaign Update was submitted to the council. The team continues to work and progress is being made.

New Business:

- 1) ELCA Resolutions regarding human sexuality – Mike
 - a. Pastors Bauer and Dismar will create a letter for the Newsletter and will prepare a statement to be presented at the beginning of the Informational Meeting.
 - b. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Informational Meeting for congregational members to discuss the resolution in small groups.
 - c. Letters from Reverend Mark S. Hanson, ELCA Presiding Bishop and Bishop James A. Justman were submitted to the council. These will be referenced in the communication from the pastors and made available on the website.
- 2) Congregational Informational Sessions planning
 - a. The meeting will be held on September 14, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary at the Downtown site.
 - b. A tentative agenda was set.
 - c. Task Forces should begin to prepare their presentations.
 - d. The pastors will announce the meetings and an announcement will be placed in the bulletin and newsletter.
 - e. The Bishop has indicated he can be in attendance.

Official Acts: A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 2009 Official Acts. Motion passed unanimously.

Closing Prayer: The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Notes taken by Judy Snavelly