

**First English Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting
Downtown Site – January 26, 2010**

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

Excused: Dan Baumbach

Guests: Brenda Smongeski and Sara Van Beek

I. Call Committee Update. Sara Van Beek said that the Call Committee has met twice—once with Council President, Mike Lokensgard. They have received many documents for review (including the work the Council recently completed regarding significant challenges facing FELC) and are in the process of gathering more information. One concern of the Call Committee is that they want to understand, as fully as possible, what transpired to cause such unhappiness at FELC, including Pr. Detweiler's leaving, etc., so they don't find themselves in the position where candidates know more about what happened at FELC than they do. The Call Committee is committed to supporting a new Senior Pastor and want the congregation to make the same commitment. They are open to suggestions on how to best accomplish this. With eleven members on the committee, scheduling meetings is currently being done at the end of each meeting so that no one person will miss two meetings in a row. Sara will give an update of the Call Committee's work at the Annual Meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2010 and January 14, 2010 Special Congregation Council meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Pastors' Reports. Reports submitted as written.

IV. Treasurer's Report. Steve Uslabar referred to his written report in the Annual Report. At the annual meeting, a power point presentation will be used to outline specific actions taken during the year to lessen the negative effects on our budget. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

V. Finalize 2010 Budget. Dean Haas reviewed the FELC balance sheet that compared 2008 to 2009. John Zweig provided a narrative of Budget Assumptions/Decisions explaining the rationale used to finalize the 2010 budget. Both of these documents will be provided at the Annual Meeting as handouts with the 2010 Budget.

A motion was made and seconded to rescind the Council's previous decision to have staff provide 20% contribution to their benefits starting July 1. Discussion included the need to investigate benefit options in 2010 before revisiting this as a possible cost sharing measure in 2011. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2010 budget. Motion carried.

VI. Annual Meeting Prep/Review of Agenda and Action Items. Council members received a letter from Jerry Anderson and his concerns were discussed. The financial affairs and questions he pointed out needing answers will be addressed at the Annual Meeting, although salary and benefits information for individual employees will not be disclosed at the meeting.

VII. Nomination of representatives to Appleton Conference. The Annual Meeting of the Appleton Conference will be held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Menasha, on Sunday, February 21st at 1:30 pm. Steve Olson will be a delegate.

VIII. Officer Nominations. Dean Haas was elected as Treasurer for 2010; Kathy Larson was elected as Secretary for 2010. Nominations will continue to be accepted for President and Vice-President and elections will take place once the new council members have been elected.

IX. Official Acts. Not available.

X. Other Items.

A. A policy on how the church and church employees use social networking sites should be created. To be referred to the Personnel Committee.

B. The Council will host the March 24th Lenten meal.

C. Annual meeting ballots will be counted by Sara Van Beek, Jeff Diehl and Mark Des Rochers.

XI. Adjourn. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. Devotions and Closing Prayer – Dean Haas.

Submitted by: Amy Henderson