

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Place: Storefront, 1191 Washington Avenue, Suite 150, Holland, MI 49423

Date: Tuesday, May 26th, 2009

Time: 6:30-9:00 pm

Present: Pastor Jim, Kelly Sauer, Brian Underhill, Dennis Willaman, Tracy Lovell, Gary Wickens

Absent: Paulette Yohe, Stephanie Rice, Tessa Zielke, Sheila Nicolas

Gathering Time

- Devotions: Dennis Willaman – Dennis read a reading and devotion about church buildings and keeping their importance in perspective.
- Note: Dennis took Sheila's turn in devotional schedule this month, Sheila will take Dennis's next turn.

Requests for Additions to Council Agenda

- Dennis has item from Lisa Miller.
- Dennis has item regarding Bylaws
- Dennis has item regarding making video for our website

Consent Agenda (*enclosed in agenda mailing*)

- Minutes: Tapestry
- Minutes: Church Council
- Income & Expense Report, Budget vs. Actual
- Restricted Funds
- Balance Sheet

A motion was made to accept the consent agenda. This motion was seconded and approved.

Mission & Vision:

- Centered in Christ
 - Celebrations & Thanksgivings (*all*)
 - Attendance has been good. There is some good news regarding Stewardship and giving, it has increased the last three months. We thanked teachers, seeded lawn, cleaned up Bret's house, we sent out \$100 checks to ministries, we received six new members. We also had some building milestones including parking lot, drywall, sprinkling system, duct work done.
 - Finance Review (Dennis, *Mike*)
 - We reviewed the financial sheets that Dennis updates. Gary mentioned that we are at about \$14000 through the fourth week of May in general offering. This is information that is not on our sheets.
 - Yellow Pages Financial Report (Dennis)
 - We talked about the idea of putting actual expenses versus income in the yellow pages each week. Pastor mentioned that he liked the idea of printing the actual expenses but not both the expenses and budget. Dennis mentioned we could print actual year to date figures for income and expenses each week. We charted what new yellow pages break down might look like including: Attendance (Worship, Sunday School), Building Fund, Noisy Offering, General Offering (for week), General Offering (Year to Date), Actual Expenses (Year to Date). It was also discussed that we could possibly add carryover from previous year, and interest year to date. Or, make sure that this is accounted for in some way. It was decided in the end though, after much discussion, that we should just report year to date income and year to date expenses and not worry about including the carried over money from the last year and interest.

A motion was made to update the Yellow Pages with additional information (General Offering Year to Date, Actual Expenses Year to Date) as discussed above. This motion was seconded and approved.

- Building Committee Update (Brian)
 - Building committee is finalizing decisions on sanctuary chairs and audio systems. These items need to be ordered soon to meet deadlines. It was also mentioned that there will be a chance for people to work building the dumpster enclosure, this could help save about \$1000.

- NCD Survey Report (Mike)
 - Pastor reviewed the results from the latest survey pointing out that overall the averages are up from last survey. The committee has decided to work on Holistic Small Groups for the next cycle. It was discussed that this NCD process has been very good for congregation and the improvements seen with each survey are encouraging.
- Worship with Joy
 - Baptisms, Weddings (Pastor)
 - There will be baptism first Sunday in June. Pastor wanted to remind us that he has three weddings in August.
 - Vacation Bible school will held 17, 18,19th of August in evenings. For now we are looking at having it at store front. This may change, in order to have it at new building we will need an occupancy permit to get in and use restrooms.
 - Setting of Cornerstone, Bible Verses, Time Capsule, Signature Stud (Pastor)
 - This will be next Sunday.
 - Open House & Dedications Planning (Pastor)
 - We will have a “going away” litany the last service in Corpus September 6th. Open House for new building will be on Saturday September 12th. This Open House will be a service of prayer and blessing with light food being served. This service would be without communion. The first full service will be on Sunday 13th and will be more of a dedication with a service with communion.
 - We reviewed the draft of the dedication and open house list of committees. These items were discussed and brainstormed. This list was made by Sheila for ideas because she couldn't make the meeting. It was agreed that this was a good organizational start. Pastor informed council that we don't need to do anything further with list at this point.
 - Gift for Corpus Christi (Pastor)
 - It was discussed that we should start thinking about a gift for Corpus Christi. Pastor suggested that we look into a banner for the chapel. Pastor will look into what this might cost and have it for next meeting.
- Embrace with Love
 - Program Budget Update (Dennis)
 - The program budget was reviewed. Kelly mentioned that under the Beyond Our Walls to the World section the Beatrice's Goat was actually \$150, not \$100. Other changes from last month were reviewed. Dennis envisions this being given to congregation at next congregational meeting. Council members should continue to think of items to add to list to make it as accurate as possible.
 - Special Recognition of Mission Partners (Pastor)
 - Pastor met with two of the three Pastors who he is trying to arrange pulpit exchanges with at the Synod assembly. This is still work in progress. No official dates have been set.
 - Neighborhood Canvassing & Inviting (Pastor)
 - Pastor informed council that information on this will be in next newsletter including a letter written by Dennis.
 - Ministry Development Retreat (Dennis, Pastor)
 - This is being planned for the Fall or early Winter. This is open to whole congregation. It will be on a Saturday. Pastor has lined up a leader. It was mentioned that it should be after neighborhood canvassing so results can be discussed at this time.
 - Release from Membership: Rosie Barton-DeVries (Pastor)

A motion was made to release Rosie from membership. This motion was seconded and approved.

- Equip for Witness & Service
 - Job Descriptions, Staff Wage/Benefit Forms (Pastor)
 - Pastor, Gary, and Sheila met already and have processed Vicki's review. They are now starting to work on Vicki's job description.

- Synod Assembly Feedback (Pastor)
 - Pastor had mixed feelings about this years assembly. He mentioned it was poorly organized in some respects, but it was in a new location which may have added to problems. He mentioned that Dale and Sally Schmelter attended as voting members and seemed to enjoy the process.
- Borrowing Equipment (Pastor)
 - Pastor is looking at developing a policy for borrowing our equipment. This may include items like the tent, and tables and chairs. We could possibly have a deposit associated. It was decided at this time if Pastor gets any requests, they should bring them to council. We will start to formulate a policy. Tracy volunteered to call Peace Lutheran to see if they have a policy and what it might be.

A motion was made for any requests for borrowing church equipment to be made to council not Pastor. This motion was seconded and approved.

- Disposal of Excess Equipment (Pastor)
 - Some ideas were discussed for disposal of excess equipment like selling on Craig's list, and donating to other churches. We also discussed mentioning this item in Newsletter to get feedback.

Additions to Agenda:

- Dennis shared an email from Lisa Miller about potentially housing kids associated with Southwestern Books. It was decided that council had no problem with passing the information along to congregation through newsletter or other medium and have people who are interested contact Lisa.
- Dennis mentioned that he knows a few cases where our Bylaws are inconsistent. It was agreed by all that it would be appropriate to set up a group of people (Officers) to review Bylaws and look for possible items to change. A meeting will be scheduled for near future.
- Dennis also mentioned that his daughter and husband are going to be visiting and that they would like to create a short video for our web-site. The cost will be covered by a donor. They are looking at doing this June 20th. The finished video product will be put onto our web-site. Council unanimously supported this idea.

Sending Time:

- Devotional Leader for June: Kelly Sauer
- Sending Prayer – The meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer at 8:55 pm.

Next Council Meeting:

Tuesday, June 22, 2009, 6:30-9:00 pm, at the Storefront

Due Date for Council Mailing & Agenda

Sunday, June 14, 2009