



## Council Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2016

6:00 PM

### Attendees

**Council Members Present:** Brent Cottrell, Lynn Minden, Kimberly Ghylin, Donna Merkle, Gary Sims, Barbara Sappenfield, Lee Allen, Jeff Lorenz

**Others Present:** Pastor Alan Fox, Kara Farrow, Roy Brockmeier

**Absent:** Shannon Fenner

### Opening

Opening devotion was offered by Gary. The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, by Brent Cottrell.

### Approval of Agenda/Minutes

The minutes of the February 9, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved. The agenda for the March 8, 2016 meeting was unanimously approved.

### Ministry Teams

#### Property

- Sound committee (Paul Greek, Janice Dahl, Jeremy Wiese, Jill Wiese, Greg Gordon, Vicki Smith) met Saturday to visit Asbury UMC and St. Pius X to see/hear how sound treatment and speakers/electronics can be used to enhance listening experience. Jen Sims is also on committee but was unable to attend Saturday.
- Follow-up meeting of Sound committee is being planned. Committee will ask Ford Audio for a proposal of various improvement options.
- New refrigerator received and installed.
- Recently repaired and improved gates to the dumpster enclosure. Switching to once/week service to save costs.
- Replacement of access control for lower doors still on schedule for later this month.
- Painting work continues, including: commons, one wall in pantry, and a wall in Pastor's office.

• J Lorenz/R Brockmeier

#### Administration

- Pastor, Kara, Roy, and Greg have been working on an updated draft of Strategic Plan. See discussion below.
- Candidate identified for part time bookkeeper position. Staff has recommended hiring of Barbara Johnson (not church member) to the

Personnel Committee. Council will likely receive email soon asking for approval for hiring.

- Roy and Greg are working with the Personnel Committee to update the Personnel Handbook. Should be complete by end of week. Changes are to update to actual procedures, and not to change existing policies.
- Organization chart distributed

• G Sims/R Brockmeier

### **Stewardship**

- Theme for 2016 Stewardship is Growing through Stewardship.
- See attached handout for logo and scripture.
- Distribution of small group devotions will continue in April. Committee is also including in weekly bulletin, so people who aren't involved in a small group can read them.
- Pastor is incorporating main points from devotions in a sermon during the month the devotion is distributed.
- Finance committee will take over distribution and collection of pledge cards in 2016.

• Pastor Fox/L Minden

### **Outreach**

- Easter postcards were mailed to all homes in same zip code as church.
- Easter postcards will be mail to members and visitors at the end of the week.
- At Easter Egg hunt, attendees will receive information on Easter services
- Banner with Fellowship logo and worship times will be hung at Easter egg hunt

• S Fenner/K Farrow/ R Brockmeier

### **Worship**

- The Hosanna Ringers, Faith Force Choir, and Bells of Praise visited Maplewood Care Center on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> for a concert.
- Spring String Sing and Ring Thing will be Sunday, April 10 at 5 p.m. Doe Tomasko, Paula Krogsrud, Ann Lee and Jan Woodring helping to coordinate meal after the event.
- Work underway for Summer Christian Arts Camps. Camps are scheduled for July 11-15 (Advanced) and July 18-22 (Primary).
- Both Vicki and Tim have been working on Easter service preparation. 9:45 Easter service will be Contemporary and 8:30 and 11:00 will be traditional.
- Plans for another Bluegrass service in 2016, and possibly adding a blues/gospel service and/or jazz service.

• K Ghylin/Pastor Fox

### **Missions**

- Mission of the month for March is Fellowship's Transportation Ministry.

• L Allen

### **Hospitality**

- Cliff and Bonnie are handling Wednesday night meals, with help from Kelly Burgess
- Doe Tomasko is handling funerals.

- Dawn Cooper is still purchasing supplies.
- Still need someone to handle special events, such as the Rally Day picnic/fish fry.

- R Brockmeier

**Care**

- No update

- B Sappenfield

## Old Business

**AR-OK ELCA  
Living God's  
Abundance  
Campaign**

- First letter regarding campaign sent last week.
- Next letter will be sent mid-April. It will be in the style of a newsletter with more detailed information about the campaign, and a card to be used to pledge or send in a donation.
- FLC goal is \$120,000 over 3 years. This is not an obligation to the Synod, just the amount we hope to raise on their behalf.
- Special speakers and offerings in May and July for the campaign.
  - L Minden/Pastor Fox

## New Business

**Strategic Plan**

- Roy presented updates to the Strategic Plan suggested by Staff.
- Hope is that goals in plan would allow congregation members the opportunity to take steps forward in their discipleship walk.
- Same 3 broad areas as before.
- Staff is the first to provide input/updates. Council and Strategic Planning committee are next.
- Emerging Themes = items we don't feel can be accomplished this year but want to keep attention on.
- Roy asked for Council's input to the plan before the next Council meeting.
- Staff meeting with Strategic Planning committee on March 9.
- Timeline of process: April council meeting – council gives input; May council meeting – orientation on developing good action steps; May 21 Ministry Team and Council meeting – make action steps towards goals.

- R Brockmeier

**Discipleship Orientation**

- Kara presented information on discipleship, which is our key focus for 2016
- Discipleship can mean different things to different people, but always includes worship, education, and service.
- Talmidim is the Hebrew word meaning disciples or students: one

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who dedicates himself to learning a rabbi's understanding of Scripture and his way of living it out.

- Scripture is full of examples or Talmidim.
- 4 practices of ancient discipleship: commitment, relationship, servanthood, and living example
- Pastor encouraged each of us to start where we are and take a step.
- Sometimes your 'growing edge' is what you least want to do.
- Your 'growing edge' may be giving up something, or letting go of something.
- Pastor urged Council to be an example to the congregation of taking steps.
- If any council members are interested in washing feet on Maundy Thursday, let Pastor know.
  - Pastor Fox/K Farrow

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### **Housing Resolution**

- Each year, the IRS requires the church to designate a portion of Pastor's salary as a housing allowance.
- Pastor requesting \$30,000 of salary to be designated as housing allowance.
- Jeff Lorenz motioned to approve; Lee Allen second; motion unanimously approved.
  - Pastor Fox/B Cottrell

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### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

- 4 people have volunteered to be on the committee
  - Pastor Fox

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### **Kara Farrow Sabbatical**

- Kara requesting sabbatical June 22-August 22
- No specific plans yet, but she will inform council when they are made.
- Likely take classes at Phillips in August, but schedule not yet available.
- Lee Allen motioned to approve, Kimberly Ghylin second; motion unanimously approved.
- K Farrow

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### **Pastor Alvaro Internship**

- Pastor Fox informed the Council he will be the supervising pastor for Pastor Alvaro as he works toward ordination in the ELCA.

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## **Treasurer's Report**

No Treasurer's report available because Finance Committee not scheduled to meet until week of March 14<sup>th</sup>. Greg expects it to be similar to last February and expects us to still be in the black.

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## **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned. The next general meeting will be on April 12 at 6:00pm. Brent Cottrell will provide meal and devotion.

Minutes submitted by: L Minden