

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
September 21, 2009
Room 112A-Church

Members Present: Chris Lindell, Pastor David Hagstrom, Sue Pearson, Von Cary, Jan Rushford, Jeff McGuire, Pastor Perry Fruhling, Kurt Beenen

Members Excused: Dave Brauhn

Guest: Louanne Neville, Director of Connecting Ministries

Visitor: Tammy Whitlow

Opening Prayer & Devotion:

President Chris Lindell opened the meeting with prayer.
Von Cary led devotions based on 2 Chronicles 1:11.

Review & Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the August 17, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

Financial Report:

No financial reports were available.

Sue Pearson agreed to serve as interim secretary for the remainder of the 2009 calendar year. Council brainstormed ways to honor the memory of deceased Council secretary Pauline Pristash, who served in this position for more than 30 years. Some of the memorial ideas included: planting of a tree; children's bibles; naming of an appropriate church room. Council will continue to reflect on the best way to honor Pauline's memory. The decision will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Connecting Ministries Update:

Louanne Neville presented a ministry briefing summarizing activity in her two areas of responsibility: Connecting Ministries and New Partners. Currently, 509 members (51 percent of the average weekly attendance) are involved in Small Groups. More detailed information is available in the handouts provided--*Leaving a Legacy* and *Connecting Opportunities*. Louanne announced that St. Mark's will be the satellite host for a delayed showing of the *Group Life Conference* on November 7.

She also invited Council members to attend a newly-instituted *New Partner Luncheon* on Sunday, September 27, in the Fellowship Center from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Chris Lindell will attend and encouraged other Council members to do likewise. Council asked what the greatest needs were for successful Small Group Ministry.

Louanne listed meeting space, library/resources, and childcare as three immediate needs. She also suggested that sandpit volleyball could be a magnet for small groups. A

possible funding source for this exists; location is an issue.

In a sidebar comment, Pastor Perry recommended that all Council members be members of a Small Group, as well as attend a session of Alpha and Crossways, if they have not already done so.

Pastors' Report:

Pastor Perry reviewed his report, focusing primarily on the results of the straw poll feedback given at the September 20 forums on the ELCA actions. A total of approximately 250 attended the three forums. Statistical analysis of the feedback and Pastor's observations are summarized in his September 2009 *Church Council Report*.

Several points were emphasized:

- 1) this feedback is not considered a scientific poll, but, rather information that will help the pastors plan "next steps;"
- 2) this feedback represents the opinions of people most likely to attend this type of meeting;
- and 3) for St. Mark's to "do nothing" as a result of the feedback is not an option. Pastor recommends additional forums on the topic.

FFT Report:

Chris Lindell provided a Future Facilities update. Movement of Future Facilities is currently slowed by the change in current bank lending practices. Jane Lindell and Dave Evans are analyzing the financials of the project: how much bank funding is actually available; how much down payment will be required; and exploring options for making up the difference. Some sub-committees of Future Facilities are being formed to continue with appropriate planning under these circumstances.

Council asked visitors to leave before personnel matters were discussed.

Other Business:

Chris informed Council that in disclosing potential conflicts of interest in his employment with Guaranty Bank & Trust, it was found that the bond covenants state a person can not be an officer of both St. Mark's and Guaranty. Legal counsel has advised Chris to recuse himself of any matters involving St. Mark's bonds and that all bondholders are to be advised of this conflict at the next quarterly bondholder statement. Guaranty will make the notification in the next statement.

Pastor David announced that he has submitted a letter of resignation as a rostered ELCA pastor to the SE synod of the ELCA effective January 31, 2010. This action has not yet been shared with the congregation. Council acknowledged that having a non-ELCA pastor on staff would put St. Mark's in non-compliance with ELCA.

A short discussion followed of the practical application of the stay/exit interview being considered by Council. It was piloted with Katie Lowe -Lancaster and found to provide useful feedback.

Jeff McGuire suggested that the church street signs be modified to include service times.

Meeting Adjourned:

With no further business, Council concluded with recitation of the Lord's Prayer.
The meeting was adjourned to 4 p.m. Tuesday, October 19, at the home of Dave Evans.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Pearson, Interim Secretary