

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
October 19, 2009
Home of Dave Evans

Members Present: Kurt Beenen, Dave Brauhn, Von Cary, Dave Evans, Pastor Perry Fruhling, Chris Lindell, Jeff McGuire, Sue Pearson, Jan Rushford

Members Excused: Pastor David Hagstrom

Visitor: Tammy Whitlow

Opening Prayer & Devotion:

President Chris Lindell opened the meeting with prayer.

Von Cary led devotions by asking Council members to share their faith stories as a way to get to know each other better. About half of the members shared their stories; those remaining will be shared at the next meeting. Von closed devotions with Philippians 1:28, 29.

Review & Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the September 21, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Jeff McGuire reviewed the financial report with Council. It was noted that although we are \$36,000 behind the YTD budget for the General Fund Revenue, we are \$92,000 ahead of 2008 for the same period. The financial report was approved as distributed. Jeff also called attention to book he is reading titled *Culture Shift : Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out* (Robert Lewis & Wayne Cordeiro, authors). He recommends it to Council members.

FFT Report:

Dave Evans updated Council on the status of financing for the Future Facilities project. In brief summary, the new standards in the banking industry for loans have negatively impacted the amount available to St. Mark's for the build. The church is considered a commercial property and held to the same borrowing standards as other commercial property.

Dave and Jane Lindell are exploring supplemental sources of financing. Loan applications have been sent out to: ELCA, Thrivent, MO Synod, NW Mutual. Dave expects responses from these applications in time for the November 16 Council Meeting.

Chris Lindell and Pastor Perry indicated that the Future Facilities team will continue to move forward with adjusting build plans. It appears that it will be necessary to again modify the plans to accommodate the financing that is available. It is anticipated that Future Facilities will also have modified plans by the November 16 meeting.

ELCA Discussion:

Pastor Perry announced that there would be a forum on Sunday, November 15, at 1:30 p.m. for further congregational discussion and feedback on the ELCA vote this past August. Council has been charged with acting as a task force to study the issues, develop a list of options and ramifications of action that St. Mark's might make in response to the vote. These options will provide the structure for the November 15 forum. The first meeting of the task force is scheduled for Sunday, October 25, at 12:30.

Subsequent to the forum, the Council task force will gather additional congregational feedback, analyze it and make recommendations to the congregation. The congregation will vote on the action they want the church to take. This vote will most likely occur at the Annual Meeting.

Pastor Perry also responded to questions on the ramifications of Pastor David's letter of resignation to the ELCA. It is anticipated that this action will be made known to congregation members at the November 15 forum. Having a non-rostered ELCA pastor is in conflict with St. Mark's constitution. Possible options in response to the conflict will be explored.

Other Business:

Dave Evans requested that Council approve a 10-year, \$3 million, fixed-term life insurance policy (\$2,770 annual premium) for Pastor Perry. (Dave described this action as keyman life insurance that secures our risk in the event of an untimely death. It is common when a leader of an organization has a significant impact on revenues. A security move during the remodel project planned by St. Mark's.) Jeff McGuire so moved; Von Cary seconded; motion carried with one abstention (Pastor Perry).

Meeting Adjourned:

With no further business, Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned to 4 p.m. Monday, November 16, at the home of Dave Evans.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Pearson, Interim Secretary