

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
**Church Council Minutes**  
December 7, 2009  
Home of Dave Evans

**Members Present:** Kurt Beenen, Dave Brauhn, Dave Evans, Pastor Perry Fruhling, Chris Lindell, Jeff McGuire, Sue Pearson, Jan Rushford, Pastor David Hagstrom, Jane Lindell, Pastor Nan Trimpe, Rick Erickson

**Excused:** Von Cary

**Visitors:** Tammy Whitlow, Louanne Neville

**Opening Prayer & Devotion:**

President Chris Lindell opened the meeting with prayer.

In the absence of Chaplain Von Cary, Chris led devotions with a reading of Luke 6:46-49 ["Building on a Solid Foundation" (NLT)] noting that these verses seem most appropriate, considering the challenges that Council currently faces.

**Review & Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the November 30 meeting were approved as distributed.

**Financial Report:**

Jeff McGuire and Jane Lindell provided a financial review. Jane distributed a financial report, described as "VERY preliminary." Jane predicts a slight deficit for 2009, but explained that is offset by the \$72,000 carried forward from 2008 and noted that the Foundation contribution of \$20,000 was received earlier than expected. The financial report was approved as distributed.

Jane also reported that she has not submitted St. Mark's mission money to the ELCA in September, October, November or yet in December. She asked Council for direction in how she should proceed. Council did not give her specific directions at this point.

Jane further commented that the 2010 budget is in the early stages of development and will be ready for Council approval at the January 18 meeting. On-going staff cost is projected to account for the 7 to 8 percent increase expected in the budget.

Jeff, Jane and Dave Evans gave a status update on financing for the build project. Three viable proposals have been received and are being evaluated: 1) Wells Fargo - \$9 million (maximum) or 50 percent of appraised value of the entire completed structure at 5.25% over 5 years; 2) Thrivent - \$6.9 million at 7 1/8% for 20 years; and 3) ELCA Mission Investment Fund - 25-year \$6.5 million ARM, starting at 6% and reviewed every five years.

The process for finalizing a loan requires that bids for construction go out and responses integrated into an amended proposal. Council approved the motion (made by Jeff; seconded by Kurt Beenen) to proceed with the bid process and the appraisal process required for final loan negotiation.

In light of the latest information regarding sewer issues of the build, the Congregational Meeting announced for December 20 (12:15 p.m. projected start time) will now be used to update members on the build project, including financing and building plans.

### **Other Business:**

Council then discussed the next steps for Pastor Hagstrom's call, which requires the formation of a call committee (5-7 members). Pastor Perry Fruhling proposed an initial list of names for consideration: Chris Lindell, Perry Fruhling, Rick Erickson, Dave Brauhn, Mary Morton, Deb Becker, Jane Simoson and Gordon Baustian; as well as an additional list of suggested names: Tork Harman, Bruce Lindholm, Rich Smith, Denise Harriman and Kirsten Corrigan. Council approved the development of a call committee, starting with the initial list of names, tapping the second list as needed (considering gender) to fulfill the number needed.

Council had a brief discussion noting the responsibility of the Nominating Committee in identifying individuals to replace retiring Council members. The need to construct minutes of the 2009 Annual Congregational Meeting was also noted, since Pauline Pristash had not completed them before her death. Sue Pearson will construct the necessary document with input from others involved with the 2009 meeting. Chris pointed out that the correct date for the Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 31, 2010.

### **Homosexuality Discussion:**

Council reviewed in detail the draft resolution *Declaration Regarding Same Gendered Relationships and Rostered Ministry at St. Mark's Lutheran Church*, prepared by Chris Lindell and distributed electronically to Council. During the review, Pastor Perry commented that the declaration was carefully worded to reflect what St. Mark's "practices" would be in regard to the issue, as opposed to reflecting "beliefs." With a minor grammatical edit (4: marriages are *marriage is*), Council unanimously approved the declaration (moved by Chris; seconded by Dave Brauhn).

In discussion following declaration/resolution approval, Council expressed the need to present a corresponding declaration reflecting what "welcoming all" looks like as it will be practiced at St. Mark's. Council felt that the second declaration should be presented to the congregation in tandem with the declaration approved above.

Council will continue as a study group to prepare a "welcoming" declaration. A meeting for this purpose is scheduled for January 4, 2010 at 4 p.m. at the church. Council members agreed to read two books prior to that meeting: *Love is an Orientation* and *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views*. Jeff McGuire will get the books ordered. These readings should provide uniform background that will assist in the task. Study group members are asked to come to the meeting with ideas to be included in the declaration (or send ideas to Chris in advance).

### **Annual Meeting Review:**

Council briefly addressed actions at the Annual Meeting. Resolutions/declarations approved by Council become practice and do not require a congregational vote unless requested by the congregation. It is anticipated that the congregation will be asked to approve (yes or no) St. Mark's joining LCMC (Lutheran Churches in Mission for Christ). Congregation approval of the budget will include how mission funds are directed.

**ELCA Discussion:**

Pastor Perry will prepare a letter of implementation by January 1, 2010. Pastor Perry also thanked Council members for their diligence and commitment to navigating through a complex issue.

Chris reported that he attempted to get in touch with Bishop Burk regarding St. Mark's mission money as intended, but that he was out of town. He will continue his effort to make a connection.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Council concluded the meeting with recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. to January 4, 4 p.m. at the church (Study Group) and January 18, 4 p.m. at the home of Dave Evans.

Submitted by  
Sue Pearson, Interim Secretary