

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
**Minutes-Special Council Meeting**  
January 24, 2010  
Room 112A

**Present:** Kurt Beenen, Dave Brauhn, Von Cary, Pastor Perry Fruhling, Chris Lindell, Jeff McGuire, Sue Pearson, Jan Rushford, Pastor David Hagstrom, Rick Erickson

**Visitors:** Jane Lindell (briefly)

Council met briefly prior to the 3 p.m. forum for the express purpose of reviewing and approving the 2010 proposed budget that will be presented at the Annual Meeting for congregational approval on January 31.

**Opening Prayer:**

President Chris Lindell opened the meeting with prayer.

**Budget Review:**

Pastor Perry reviewed the 2010 Proposed Budget as distributed to Council members electronically. He summarized key points of the 2010 proposed budget as:

- 2.4% increase over the 2009 budget
- 8.9% increase over the 2009 actual budget
- modest increase compared to other years
- no new hires until mid-July
- focus on maintaining staff; no raises or increase in staff salaries
- salaries and benefits represent 63% of the total budget

Pastor Perry also commented that there is a hold on repaving the parking lot. There have been cuts in some of the communication expenses, as well as training expenses.

There was also discussion and explanation of line item "other" under "Benevolence and Missions." Pastor Perry emphasized that 10% of the Church income goes to missions, but not all is funneled through the ELCA; some is sent directly to the mission. A mechanism will be developed for donors to indicate where their mission dollars should go for those who do not want their mission dollars to go to the ELCA.

Dave Brauhn made a motion to accept the 2010 Proposed Budget as distributed. Kurt Beenen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**ELCA Discussion:**

Pastor Perry commented briefly on the ELCA memorandum, noting that synods have varied in their response to the August vote. Some may prove to be test cases.

Pastor Perry and Chris Lindell will be prepared to answer any questions at the Annual Meeting that specifically address the ramifications of the LCMC vote and dual affiliation.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 upon the arrival of guest forum leader Pastor Mark Vander Tuig.