

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
**Minutes of the Council Meeting**  
**April 13, 2010**

**Members Present:** Chris Lindell, Dave Brauhn, Von Cary, Emily Wellnitz, Jeff McGuire, Kurt Beenen, Jan Rushford, Pastor Perry Fruhling, Dr. David Hagstrom.

**Visitors:** Louanne Neville, Dan and Jody Skogen, Tammy Whitlow, Daryl Julich and Sher Jasperse, Gene and Valois Wolter, Steve Larson, George Ross, Don Grimm, Stephen Van Slyke, Steve Rushford, Bruce Lindholm, Alfred Kaupins, Bill and Belinda Hampton.

**Opening Prayer & Devotion:**

President Chris Lindell opened the meeting with prayer at 4:00pm in due form.

Chris Lindell informed visitors about the meeting format for this working council session.

Council member Von Cary presented the devotion from a Rick Warren book that centered on the message that Easter shows us God's amazing love and that Christians should face fear with love.

**Review & Approval of Minutes:**

The March 29, 2010 council meeting minutes were approved as read.

**Financial Report:**

Pastor Perry Fruhling talked about the financials and that general giving fund is down at this time and said that cost saving measures are in place with positions and materials.

Chris Lindell reminded everyone that staff takes care of the budget issues and council suggestions on budget should be made through Pastor Perry or Chris Lindell.

**Building Update:**

David Hagstrom provided the building update including:

- City accepted sewer liability agreement
- Concrete will be poured in large quantities
- HVAC nearly complete
- Website is available to watch progress
- Waiting on sewer pump (4-5 weeks out)
- Will look at a 20-30 year roofing plan
- Still defining where we will use stained glass
- There is a meeting later in the week to define the design for the new worship center
- Chris Lindell and Pastor David Hagstrom said that all financing conditions are satisfied

## **ELCA Discussion:**

Chris Lindell asked for discussion on the purpose and the process of studying the ELCA. He asked each of us to define our thoughts and expectations regarding how to proceed with the 5 big topics that came out of last meeting with the Affinity diagram.

- 1) Social - perceived issues of controversy
- 2) Biblical theology
- 3) Structural, process and data
- 4) Culture and emotion
- 5) Denominational support (both ways)

## Council comments:

- **Pastor Perry Fruhling** - We need to first decide what order we should study the topics. Suggested structure/process/data 1<sup>st</sup>, with biblical theology 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - **David Hagstrom** - The structure of the study is important and that we may want to provide the congregation with a packet of information on the 5 categories.
  - **Vice President Dave Brauhn** - Council needs to lead and manage the change and identify fact from opinion. We need an understandable format so it is user friendly to all. If members want to provide factual resources they can be e-mailed to council.
  - **Council member Emily Wellnitz** - The congregation needs to be able to view resources. All research needs to be cited. Look at (graph) all governing bodies right away so we have researched them all up front.
  - **Council member Jan Rushford** suggested using a reputable resource to provide a congregational survey once we have information to share so we can hear from the larger population of our congregation. We need to market the survey well to obtain the thoughts of the greater congregation.
  - **Council member Von Cary** - We need to start with our core beliefs as the foundation and set the stage for our process.
  - **Council member Kurt Beenen** - We need to consider that only 20% of our voting population attends congregational meetings.
  - **Council member Jeff McGuire** – We need to focus on the facts and we can't leave the topic open.
  - **David Hagstrom** - We need to clarify who should be involved in our study and what should go to the congregation.
  - **Perry Fruhling** - Believes our Council is diverse and represents the congregational views well. Suggested that the council do the research as the core group and utilize members in the research. Bring all the information back to council meetings for the group to finish off. Do this with all 5 issues. He addressed the issue of closure for the study. When the general congregation is satisfied with the information. We need a flexible timeline set. We are guiding the process and not sharing our personal opinions.
- st
- **Chris Lindell** – We will start with structure/process/data
    1. Von Cary is attending an ELCA seminar and Dave Brauhn will attend a LCMC seminar. Both will report back with information.
    2. Council members volunteered for research assignments with the structure/process/data issues.

- **Jan Rushford** - We should use an electronic shared folder to house the research information so that one person wouldn't need to take on this task.
- **Chris Lindell** said he would create a Google doc to house our study information and process documents and will set up [timebridge.com](http://timebridge.com) as a means to organize meeting times.
- **Perry Fruhling** suggested this timeline for our study:
  1. One month to get the study started
  2. Monthly forums starting in June and going forward
  3. Flexible goal to be complete by November 2010.

Visitor comments:

- **Don Grimm** – Make sure you know the goal for end results.
- **Gene Wolter**– Find a democratic way to get info out to all. The pastor's thoughts on the information need to be important.
- **Sher Jasperse** – Polling needs to be done with factual information. Need to involve the congregation in the study.
- **Bruce Lindholm** - Tough to get to what the ELCA really means - so many opinions.
- **Steve Larson** - I appreciate the hard work of all this council. Recommended reading a few books that he has read on homosexuality.
  - o Homosexuality and The Bible - 2 Views - council has read
  - o Love is an Orientation - council has read
  - o Someone I Love is Gay - Worthen and Davies
  - o 101 Frequently Asked Questions About Homosexuality – Mike Haley
  - o The Gay Gospel Ð Joe Dallas
- **Pastor Kaupins** - Remember that in spite of what separates us it is much more important what binds us. Look at the big picture.
- **Dan Skogen** - Look at where the ELCA stands on the issues. At what point does the ELCA hold people accountable?
- **Jody Skogen** - People/members can help with fact -finding research. Staff should intersect with the process. Ministry leaders should be used as a resource / knowledge assistant.
- **Louanne Neville** - Research what is the ELCA today and in the future?

Chris Lindell thanked all the visitors for their comments and announced that the next portion of the meeting would be closed session.

**Other Business:**

The item on the closed agenda was David Hagstrom title. It was stated by council that David Hagstrom would be serving in the role of: "Executive Director for Teaching and Administration".

- o Jeff McGuire made a motion to accept the title for David Hagstrom.
- o Kurt Beenen seconded the motion.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Chris Lindell closed the meeting at 6:15pm and everyone joined in on the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Jan Rushford, Secretary