

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Council Meeting
July 19, 2010**

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

Absent: Emily Wellnitz

Visitors: See scanned sign in sheet – attached

The council meeting was held at Ruby Tuesday where council members enjoyed dinner together before the meeting.

President Chris Lindell opened the meeting 6:33pm in due form.

Pastor Perry Fruhling led us in prayer.

Council member Von Cary presented devotions on the 10 commandments.

The June 21, 2010 council meeting minutes and the June 27, 2010 congregational forum minutes were sent previous to the meeting for council review and stand as sent out.

Council member Jeff McGuire presented the financial report including the % of expenses and revenues for 1st 6 months of the year. The revenues are lagging behind for the 1st half of the year.

Pastor Perry Fruhling responded to the budget and said that staff is looking to find additional ways to make budget adjustments. He asked for council discussion on if it is time to involve the congregation or if we should wait to provide the information after the ELCA vote?

Jane Lindell provided a variety of reasons why our revenues are lagging. She stated that addressing the congregation would be favorable to additional staff cuts. Jane feels that the congregation would appreciate knowing this so they would have an opportunity to step up. She did add that this might go against St Mark's historical view of stewardship because we do not typically talk about money and giving aside from Stewardship Sunday. The council discussed the budget issue and also the need to potentially appeal the congregation with the information.

Pastor Perry Fruhling said he would take the information discussed and address his staff.

Pastor Perry Fruhling touched on the pastoral report and highlighted the recent mission trip as well as the new sermon series.

Chris Lindell provided information that council and forum minutes are available on the church website. Chris also asked for council input on how to combine the remaining study topics and wanted thoughts on a timeline for completing the study. The council agreed that the information should be condensed and the topics covered 2 at a time. Chris asked for volunteers for the next topic and Von Cary agreed to lead a task force with congregational volunteers on denominational issues and support.

It was decided that we would schedule several special council meetings to discuss the remaining topics and that the dates would be made available to the congregation. The next special council meeting will be on August 2nd. We also would need to plan for at least 2 additional forums to discuss study findings. Chris will provide the finalized dates this week.

Jane Lindell provided a building update. Good progress was noted.

Chris Lindell inquired about any safety or financial issues with the building project.

Jane Lindell reported no concerns financially – imagine finances are good. No reported safety problems. Safety is monitored very closely.

Pastor Perry Fruhling provided information on designated giving for equipment and other opportunities.

Chris Lindell thanked the visitors for being here and said your comments do make a difference. We have taken your comments into consideration and as a result have made changes based on suggestions.

Congregational members had questions and made comments.

Bringing this to a closure is important and doing this as soon as possible would be good.

To the question, will the council ultimately decide if we vote or don't vote? Chris Lindell responded Council will recommend whether to vote or not vote.

Chris Lindell thanked everyone for coming and asked that everyone close with the Lords Prayer.

The meeting closed at 8:00 in due form.

Council closed session – discussion of next steps.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Rushford
Secretary