

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
**Minutes of the Special Council Meeting**  
**August 30, 2010**

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

Visitors: See scanned sign in sheet – attached

The council meeting was held at St. Marks.

President Chris Lindell opened the meeting at 6:00pm in due form.

Pastor Perry Fruhling led us in prayer.

Council member Von Cary presented devotions from 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7-14 on “Loving one another”.

Chris Lindell sent out the 8/2/10 Special Council Meeting Minutes and the 8/15/10 Congregational Forum Minutes prior to our meeting tonight. The minute's stand approved as read. Chris also announced that the minutes were condensed and modified for February – July council meetings and forums and are available on the church website.

Council member Jeff McGuire provided the financial statement. Improvements were noted in the budget. There have been significant budget trimmings made by staff.

Council member Dave Brauhn motioned to accept the financial report and Kurt Beenen seconded the motion.

Chris Lindell presented updates from the building committee and future facilities team. The future facilities team is recommending modifications to worship area 2 adding an additional \$60,000.00, which needs to be approved since it's over \$5,000.00. Retractable stages, wood ceiling system and finish carpentry mentioned as some of the reasons for the additional cost. Designated giving (such as the organ) will be important to complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> worship area. Jeff McGuire motioned to accept the additional funds needed and Emily Wellnitz seconded the motion. The motion carried with one abstention.

Pastor Perry Fruhling talked about “Beautiful Day” which is a community outreach to be held on October 9<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged everyone to be involved in this outreach.

The council went through the final section of the study of the ELCA on “Culture and Emotions.” Council was encouraged to carefully evaluate the document tonight to ensure we all are comfortable with the final draft of the document. A copy of the document will be available on the council website.

Visitor comments:

- Please package all the study information for members that are not at these meetings.
- Need to allow more time for questions at the forum. Should limit the amount of redundant information presented to allow for more time for members to respond. Keep the presentations to new information only.
- Comment made to read the “Gay Gospel”.
- Comment that we need to see better representation for those that are with the ELCA.
- Comment that we need to see better representation for those against the ELCA.
- Comment that ELCA social perceptions are biblical based.
- Question: Do you feel it is fair that staff has been asked how they feel about this issue? Is that going to be criteria for new hires?
  - Response from Pastor - yes, he needs to know where his staff stands.
- Question: How do you process forum comments and evaluations?
  - Jeff McGuire takes the evaluations home and immediately takes all the comments and logs them on one document and sends them to council for review.
- Comment that there seems to be frustration in voices and this is disturbing. Seems more and more division as a result of this study. Leadership needs to support finding the middle. Agree to disagree. A vote may cause more division.
- This is not what Christ is about. He came to save all those that love Him not just a certain group.
- This is taking too long. Need to vote and move on. Follow scripture.
- Question rose whether Dr. David Hagstrom left this ELCA study committee by force or on his own.
  - Pastor Perry said David made the decision - he felt it was the right thing decision.

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

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Council closed session held after the meeting – discussion included next steps, upcoming meetings and forums.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Rushford  
Secretary