

Church Council Minutes

Members Present: Dick Moore, John Nielsen, Kari Iverson, Karen Thompson, Ron Onsager, Diane Gossman, Jean Forde, Jake Hildebrand, Glen Barth, Dave Sacquitne, Cheryl Thompson, Merlyn Finley, Ron Stoskopf, Dick Cole, Michele Blekeberg, Hub Christen, Rich Leake, Sue Bjelland, Nancy Gilson, Pr. Bryan, Robertson, Pr. Wayne Hagen
Members Absent: Jim Grinna, excused; LaVonne Peterson, excused; Daniel Lundtvedt, excused; Becky Swella Smedsruud, excused; Tracy Dostal, excused.

Pr. Gene Hermeier introduced his guest from Russia who is the President of the Lutheran Seminary in St. Petersburg. He spoke briefly of the history of the Lutheran Church in Russia. He talked about the seminary programs and the challenges they are currently facing. He asked for our support in prayer for their work.

The council meeting was called to order by President Dave Sacquitne.

Review of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by Richard Leake, seconded by Ron Onsager. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: An assets and liabilities report was included with the treasurer's report. Glen is still checking about the severance package, insurance, pension, etc. Sunday morning offerings are down but the staff has been helping holding expenses down. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Secretary's report: Ron Onsager moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Ron Stoskopf. Passed.

Committee reports:

Education: Offering was \$595.35 and expenses were \$2,303.36. 18 preschoolers attended VBS. 127 kids attended K-7 VBS. Plans are continuing for the Harry Wendt seminar. Child care will be provided. Considering bibles given to 3rd and 8th graders.

Youth: 10 Luther Leaguers will leave for Montana in about 10 days. The Junior League will be planning a canoe trip later. Jr. and Sr. Leagues will serve coffee in August. Todd will be going on the 8th grade trip to DC. The blood mobile will be at the Stone Ridge church this summer.

Stewardship: Jim Bullard was nominated to be the new member of the Stewardship committee. The stewardship drive was discussed. It was suggested to have cottage meetings of small groups to discuss financial goals and objectives. Run Sunday may continue as before. They are looking for ways to increase the cash flow of the church. A special offering (loose offering)

for World Hunger will be collected as per Bishop Ullestad's request on the Sunday he is here. FPU will probably be offered this fall. We will plan to use the materials we have on hand, even though they are slightly outdated. Ron Onsager offered to help teach the classes.

Worship: Work is being done on building a temporary portable communion rail. The parts and labor are being donated so there will not be any expense. This will be on a trial basis only. "Now the Feast of Celebration" is being used during the Saturday night communion services and the choir is assisting with the singing. The Decorah Nordic Fest committee is requesting Norwegian church services on Saturday night and Sunday morning. We will try to fulfill this request. Bishop Ullestad will be preaching on Sunday, June 20 and will be available for questions and discussion at the coffee hour. The executive committee requested that the last 10 rows on both sides of the sanctuary be roped off on Saturday night services to encourage people to sit further to the front. Hub will speak to Lynn regarding doing this. New members are needed for the Praise Worship team. Decorations on the altar may be removed for weddings. Roger will assist with this as needed. Interviews are being held for the position of Adult Choir Director.

Evangelism: The committee met in the narthex to discuss ways to make our entrance more welcoming to visitors. Banners and signs were discussed. Placement of the visitor's information was discussed. The visitor cards and the pew pad sheets are ready for printing.

Property and Management: \$5115.25 was paid in bills. The restroom was redecorated and this project was donated by Joyce and Hub Christen. We have 2 rentals for \$50 and one no charge. The committee suggested we have some Thank you cards that each committee could use. Bill Tillman donated the snow removal last year and should be thanked. The committee will contact the Ft. Atkinson Nursery to see what can be done with the outside plants. The roof over the education area has been fixed at no charge.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Hagen states people are asking if "we are there yet?" Little progress can be made as long as we have the severance package to deal with. November should be better. Some people are frustrated with the slow movement. The congregation needs to address financial issues. They are starting to talk about the

Fall confirmation program. There is an advantage to having small cottage meetings instead of Run Sunday as we have had in the past. Hub Christen suggested that the congregation be asked to help with the severance package. Hub will draft a letter and bring back to the council for review. Pr. Robertson reported on a successful VBS. Pr. Bryan and Glenn will try a new route thru Costa Rica to Panama.

Old Business:

Dick Moore sent a letter to 11 people and received one favorable response to serving on the committee for revision of the constitution. He is aiming for a group of 7 to 9 people. He asked for volunteers from the council. Rich Cole and Hub Christen volunteered to help. Dick will continue to recruit.

The date of the next DLC annual meeting was discussed. Ron Onsager moved it be on January 30, 2011. Seconded by Sue Bjelland. Motion carried. The time of the meeting will be determined later.

Summer trips for the youth include a trip to Montana and a canoe trip later in the summer.

Hub Christen requested that the letter he presented at the last meeting be disposed of at this time. No action needs to be taken on this.

New Business:

Richard Leake moved that the loose offering on June 20, 2010 go to World Hunger. Rich Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rich Cole moved that Jim Bullard be asked to replace Stan Finholt on the Stewardship committee. Hub Christen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Glen contacted Ben Steines and he has agreed to act as Glenn's substitute.

Transfers out: Robert and Marilyn Larson to Good Shepherd-Decorah; Michael, Sarah & Collin McConnell to Bethel Lutheran, Rochester, MN. Jake Hildebrand moved to approve the transfers, seconded by Ron Onsager. Approved. There will not be a council meeting in July, but the individual committees may meet as needed.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Gilson, Secretary

June 2010