

Trinity Lutheran Church
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

**MINUTES OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING
December 15, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Bob Frymoyer.

The following council members were present:

Daryl Ackerman	Reuben Balasundram	Doug Bonsall
Pastor Brock	Judy Collins	Christopher Couch
Craig Erdman	Kathy Eavey	Joe Fidler
Bill Foos	Peter Fox	Roland Freund
Bob Frymoyer	Pastor Hardy	Maria Hegedus
Betsy Knarr	Mike Schwalm	

Nancy Martin, assistant to the secretary, was also present.

Gathering in God's Grace:

Opening Devotions and Lighting of the Unity Candle:

Ms. Knarr lit the candle and passed out a poem titled, "He Is God." Hymn number 267, "Joy to the World" was sung.

Roll Call and action on requests for absence: Mr. Erdman moved to excuse Mr. Tim Koch per his request. The motion carried.

Recognition of visitors: Mr. Paul Hensel, Ms. Jane Hess, Mr. Sid Myers, Ms. Tania Springer, Ms. Donna Sprowls, and Vicars Jeanne Larsen and Cheri Korte were present.

Approval of minutes: Mr. Freund moved to approve the minutes of November 10, 2008. The motion passed.

Agreement on Agenda:

Offering of our Gifts and Talents

Petitions and Communications:

President Frymoyer received a letter from Penn Cumberland Garden Club requesting the use of the Fellowship Hall for a luncheon to be held September 18, 2009. Also a letter was received from Agora Cyber Charter School requesting to use the church facilities to accommodate approximately 50 students and adults one day every other week. There was a discussion as to the proper use of the facilities. Mr. Fidler requested to discuss later as to rents. It was suggested the Property and Administration and Personnel Committee Chairs work on this and come back to council in January. Council members requested that the decision be made by the whole council instead of the Executive Committee.

Committee Emphasis:

Staff Reports:

Reports were received from Pastor Hardy, Pastor Brock, Pastor Easton, Christopher Couch, Tim Koch, Peter Fox, Debbie Wilson and Judy Collins. Each attending person was asked by President Frymoyer to provide one highlight of their report to the council members.

Pastor Hardy mentioned it was a busy month.

Pastor Brock thanked those who volunteered for the Thanksgiving Dinner.

Mr. Couch highlighted the Advent wreath making and Drew Yuen's Eagle Scout Project.

Mr. Fox stated the youth group's winter retreat was a success.

Ms. Wilson is working on music for the Christmas season.

Ms. Collins highlighted the last two asterisks at the bottom of her report. She is preparing a text book to be used by non-English speaking students, and serving on the review team for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

President's Report: Nothing to report this month.

Executive Committee: No actions.

Reports of Special Committees:

Strategic Planning Committee:

Mr. Foos mentioned the two temple talks that were given and his appreciation for everyone's help with the fire side conversations which are getting good feedback. One more fire side conversation is scheduled for next Sunday at 9:30. He noted that there are still two more temple talks. There are two meetings scheduled on December 30 and January 6. The final edits to the Vision and Mission Statements will be made at these meetings. When it is formally presented to the congregation, it will be presented as a draft document to be constantly revisited and revised.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee: Mr. Ackerman's report is on file. Membership Envelope giving is \$61,000 lower than the year-to-date budget and \$175,000 below annual budget. Net receipts less expenses is at \$27,000, made possible by pre-funding. It is estimated that we may have \$8,500 in excess receipts over expenditures at year end.

Receipts continue to come in toward the Capital Campaign.

Administration and Personnel Committee: Mr. Erdman's report is on file. Mr. Erdman asked everyone to read the second part of the Administration and Personnel report. He requests input from council and staff.

Arts Committee: No Meeting.

Church Property Committee: Mr. Foos' report is on file. Mr. Foos mentioned Ms. Barbara Kriebel is still waiting for two estimates from engineering survey companies. It is hoped that the survey can be completed before the end of winter.

MOTION: Fellowship Hall Mr. Foos moved to expend \$1512.00 (from undesignated memorial gifts) for the reprogramming of the Panjax Touch Panel unit which is used in the Fellowship Hall, with the inclusion of two Operator's Instruction Manuals. The motioned carried.

MOTION: Property Budget Mr. Foos moved to authorize, but not to exceed \$18,000 overexpenditure of the property budget for the year. The motion carried.

Educational Ministry Committee: Mr. Bush's report is on file. Ms. Eavey mentioned that they are working on revitalizing the Koinonia program. Mr. Couch gave council a better understanding of the Koinonia groups and how they came about.

Evangelism: No Meeting. The Saturday before Thanksgiving five members hung 350 invitations to Trinity on doorknobs in Camp Hill. Ms. Eavey noted that she heard good comments about the door-to-door outreach.

Fellowship Committee: No Meeting. Mr. Bonsall reported on the continued activity of the committee, and thanked everyone who participated with last night's reception after the choir concert.

Missions Committee: No Meeting. Mr. Balasundram mentioned they are planning multiple Sunday morning mission events in January during the Sunday School hour. Mr. Bonsall noted eight people when to Camden, New Jersey, to deliver giving tree donations and work in the shelter. He stated it was a very moving experience.

Parish Ministry Committee: No Meeting. Mr. Schwalm reported they are reworking the policy page and Ms. Sprowls is anxious to see it approved. Ms. Jo-an Eckert has resigned as our CPR/AED trainer. The committee would like to recognize her many years of service, but she does not want any attention.

Publicity and Communications: No Meeting. Mr. Balasundram mentioned Mr. Weaver is researching new website software, Dream Weaver, at a cost of approximately \$800.00. The committee is also researching a digital display board for the Gathering Space. The policy page is being reviewed.

Social Ministry Committee: No Meeting. Mr. Freund mentioned New Hope ministry and their expansion in 2009 in the West Shore area.

Stewardship Committee: No meeting. Trinity received 427 pledges so far with a total of \$940,000. The 8-year average is 506 pledges received. The committee hopes to receive 450 pledges and an estimated \$1,200,000 total pledged.

Worship Committee: Mr. Weaver's report is on file. Ms. Eavey highlighted Mr. Weaver's discussion questions on his report. The committee plans to refine the list at their February meeting and plan outreach to those identified.

Youth Ministry Committee: No meeting.

Reports of Auxiliaries: No report.

Continuing Service

Informal Session:

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

MOTION: Housing Allowance Mr. Erdman moved to approve the 2009 housing allowance for Pastor Hardy at \$21,500. Pastor Hardy explained that each pastor may designate a portion of his salary as housing allowance according to IRS regulations. This is not additional income. The motion carried.

MOTION: Housing Allowance Mr. Erdman moved to approve the 2009 housing allowance for Pastor Brock at \$22,000. The motion carried.

MOTION: Housing Allowance Mr. Erdman moved to approve the 2009 housing allowance for Pastor Easton at \$13,500. The motion carried.

MOTION: PP 2.20 Mr. Erdman moved to approve Policy Page 2.20 (Employee Insurance Benefits). The changes are to bring our policy into compliance with the ELCA plan. The motion carried.

MOTION: PP 1.30.4 Mr. Erdman moved to approve Policy Page 1.30.4 (Evangelism Committee). The motion carried.

MOTION: PP 1.40.2 Mr. Erdman moved to approve Policy Page 1.40.2 (Nominations for Congregation Council). The motion carried.

MOTION: PP 5.40

Mr. Erdman moved to approve Policy Page 5.40 (Congregational Meeting). The motion carried.

MOTION:

Mr. Bonsall moved to approve the names submitted to council to be contacted in their ranked order to fill the four positions for Congregation Council. The motion carried.

MOTION:

Mr. Bonsall moved to grant the Executive Committee the authority to select additional candidates for the 2009 council, if necessary. The motion carried.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss the 2009 budget.

MOTION: 2009 Budget

Mr. Ackerman moved the 2009 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee be adopted by the congregation council. The motion carried.

Ballots were distributed, and voting members ranked the nominees for the three council vacancies to be filled. As previously reported, council has requested, and Ms. Betsy Knarr has agreed, to serve another term since she is currently filling the unexpired term of Arnie Greenlund.

Comments for the good of the order:

Pastor Hardy thanked Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Paul Hensel, Mr. Erdman, and Mr. Fidler for their work on preparing the budget. He thanked President Frymoyer for his leadership.

Dismissal: The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. Council members joined hands and prayed together The Lord's Prayer.

Maria Hegedus, secretary

Nancy Martin, assistant to the secretary