

BETHANY LUTHERAN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
January 12, 2009

In attendance:

Denny Hixson, President
Donna Wilson, Secretary
Pastor Ed Trost
Pastor Mark Schulz
Pastor Bryan Drebes
Bill Prann, Director of Christian Education
Don Kaiser, Board of Stewardship
Dennis Underwood, Administration
Glenn Person, Board of Property Management
Mark Bolar, Board of Outreach
Mark Horrigan, Board of Elders

Michael Apfel, Board of Youth Ministry
Pamela Nummela, Director of Child Ministry &
Principal Bethany Day School
Scott Honig, Board of Christian Care
Troy Osborne, Board of Adult Ministry
Todd Beikmann, Board of Christian Education
Ken Van Booven, Board of Communications
Cory Emily, Principal
Sara Oberle, Director of Music
Diane Fischer, Board of Child Ministry

President Denny Hixson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions and Opening Prayer – Led by Pastor Mark

Minutes – Donna Wilson

The minutes for the December 8, 2008 meeting were sent to the Council Members electronically. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Denny Hixson for Steve Rathjen

Stewardship Report

Because of the generosity of the congregation, we ended 2008 on a positive note with contributions. The extra money we received was put back into the budget.

We received 411 pledges for '09 vs. 424 for '08, a decrease of 13.
Pledge amount was \$1,408,004 compared with \$1,412,099 for '08, a decrease of \$4,095.
Average pledge was \$3,574 an increase of \$17 overage of \$3,557 for '08.

We had only 394 pledge stubs with amounts, which is 17 short of total pledge envelopes of 411. These 17 pledges were estimated at \$30,379, resulting in an adjusted 2009 Adjusted Pledge Amount of \$1,438,383.

We had 745 Contributing Units for 2008. Using that same figure for 2009, we will have 337 non-pledging units. The Stewardship Board feels the average of these non-pledges will be \$897, a \$71 increase '09 vs. '08. This is based on assuming adjusted pledge amount will be between 82-83% of total giving. Therefore, the Stewardship Board has approved a 2009 Forecast of \$1,740,600. This does not include another \$20,000- that is not in the pledges.

Extending the Vision receipts for 2008 were \$313,387.42. Program total is \$1,523,133.42. This is \$249,367 short of our pledge amount of \$1,772,500. Total program was \$2,150,000.

Finance committee had an opportunity with a budget \$1.7 and had to add \$60,000 back in the budget.

- Refinancing papers have been submitted and will be completed by Friday, January 16, 2009.
- Media/Archives money will need to be approved before the council before expenses are incurred.
- Elders Worship – took back to where it was originally
- Board of Education – took back to the original budget
- Adult Ministry – took back to the original budget
- Outreach – Name tags grew because we would like everyone to have one
- Christian Care – Same
- Stewardship – Equal to 10% of revenue number \$176,000. Get us back at Stilwell that it doesn't appear as Mission church. Will be giving to outside at 10%
- Property – Back to original budget
- Children's Ministry – Cutting quite a bit and is still smaller than last year, but brought it back
- Youth Ministry – Back to original budget
- Communications – No change
- Move \$26K from Personnel to Media/Archive budget
- Motion was made for merit increase and approved

A motion was made to approve the \$1.76 budget. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Council also reviewed the budget for the preschool, day school, and MDO.

Long Range Planning – Craig Johnson

Craig commented that the Long Range Planning document will be used as a guide and not set in stone as it relates to responsibilities going forward. The goals may change along with the timelines and people executing. Property Management would like to add a new category on capital expenditures. When it says physical (under school), this line item relates to the school.

A motion was made to accept the Long Range Planning document and adding the capital expenditures. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Ed

Pastor indicated that he offered an individual the opportunity to head up the 50th Anniversary Celebration committee and the person declined. He hopes next month he will have a name to bring to the council for approval. A theme has been chosen for the 50th Anniversary Celebration...Walking together...Working for Him. We have been working with Archive committee (Rod Strahm). Pastor brought to the meeting a pictorial directory from years ago and this has been given to the committee. Tim Grojean is working on digitalizing the pictures.

The committee is looking into several celebrations for this major milestone. One of them would include an old-fashioned Mission Fest with a tent, followed by a picnic at Stilwell property (either in the fall or spring).

The committee wants to make this more than a time to remember but a time to celebrate with the sense of renewed commitment to the ministry.

Pastor indicated that he has been approached by a couple of people in the congregation on what we did this year to end it on such a positive note (referencing the budget situation). He indicated that it was an answer to prayer and it's not what we did, but rather what God has done. Stewardship did a great job with the communication to the congregation.

Board of Elders – Mark Horrigan

As a follow up to last month's discussion, microphones have been ordered and we had the financing for this. They should arrive on 1/22/09.

Board of Youth – Michael Apfel

Michael indicated that the Board of Youth has lost members from the board and need to recruit new people. Michael went with a suggestion from Pastor Bryan which was to invite members to be part of a task force. These individuals would look at certain areas of the ministry. Hopefully, after their review, they would make recommendations of board on what should be done and then these individuals would stay on the board to see it through. A total of 23 invitations were mailed and 17 people have accepted the invitation with several on the fence.

The responsibility of the task force would be to review the vision and mission statement, review the board of youth ministries roles and responsibilities for current programming, and to revitalize the youth board. Roger Johnson will run the task force.

The Board will be available for questions but the task force will be responsible for going through the tasks.

The task force is targeting 1/20/09 as their first meeting and will be meeting twice a month through the middle of May.

LWML – Donna Petersen

The Women's Ministry will be sponsoring the Lady Bug Retreat on Saturday, March 7. It will be held in Stilwell. They are promising fun music, crafts, speakers and the whole community is available to attend.

Voter's Agenda – Denny Hixson

Discussed the agenda items for the Voter's Meeting.

Pastor Bryan

Pastor distributed a Ministry Memo which discussed an upcoming opportunity to hear Andrew Bolin, Ministry Catalyst at LHM present about Lutheran Hour Ministries. He will be talking about their newest ministry entitled "The Men's Network". He encourages the men of the council to attend.

Closing Prayer and Doxology - Pastor Bryan

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wilson
Secretary