

BETHANY LUTHERAN
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
March 9, 2009

In attendance:

Craig Johnson, Vice President
Donna Wilson, Secretary
Pastor Ed Trost
Pastor Mark Schulz
Pastor Bryan Drebes
Dennis Underwood, Administration
Troy Osborne, Board of Adult Ministry
Glenn Person, Board of Property Management
Diane Fischer, Board of Child Ministry
Pam Nummela, Director of Child Ministry & Principal Bethany Day School
Scott Honig, Board of Christian Care
Bill Prann, Director of Christian Education
Donna Petersen, LWML
Don Kaiser, Board of Stewardship
Mark Horrigan, Board of Elders
Ken Van Booven, Board of Communications

Vice President Craig Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Devotions and Opening Prayer – Led by Pastor Mark

Minutes – Donna Wilson

The minutes for the February 9, 2009 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 – Dennis Underwood for Steve Rathjen

Dennis gave the Treasurer's report. For the month of February total receipts for work program stand at \$130,085 with year to date receipts of \$248,335.

The month of February is \$1,380 short of the expenses. Sunday contributions seem to be trending a bit behind, but not alarming at this point.

Extending the Vision – For the year we have paid \$125,982 which has gone towards principle.

Time and Talent – Don Kaiser

Don stated that he needs updates from a few committees as it relates to the time and talent survey. Please respond by 3/16/09 if you haven't already done so. The New Member classes had a few people sign up for different areas of interest.

There is going to be a change in the envelopes. Our design was discontinued. The new one will have an inspirational message on the front along with the money amount on the back flap.

Long Range Planning – Craig Johnson

Long-Range Planning has begun. Craig requested that the Board Chairs should communicate to their committees. Please look at the timelines and communicate your progress towards. This information will be shared at the congregation meetings.

Succession Planning – Please compile a list of names of those interested in filling open spots this year or even next. Craig will need this in upcoming months. This will be used to develop a bench for committees in the future. This way we will have candidates to fill potential openings. The list will not be acted upon yet, but will be good to have. He would like the list by May 1.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Ed

Attendance has been down the last two weeks. We were doing very well overall up to that point, but over the last two weeks it has been lower. Weather may have had something to do with it a couple of weeks ago.

Religion is ebbing across the board. There is attrition in religion in America. Pastor encouraged everyone to read the *USA Today* (3/9/09). We are facing a secularization of the church – marching orders from society – rather than the sacred scriptures.

He encourages us to be more bold. We have great men on the Board of Elders and we have a few more that are interested. We need to encourage our people to live the faith...walk with Christ. He asked for our support to the Pastors who are bold but loving for people to respond to Christ's invitation. He also asked for us to pray for an outpour of Spirit for our congregation and society today and that we have an outpouring during Lenten services and the church services.

We need the spirit of oneness with the church and the surrounding Lutheran churches in the area. We need to be more visible in the community. We should use the 50th Anniversary as a call to renewal. You have a friend at Bethany is lived out and is more than a motto.

Ivan Grimm is working on the celebrations for the 50th Anniversary. Donna and Mark Petersen will be working on the Old-Fashioned Mission Festival at the Stilwell location. This will be early June 2010. The end of summer/early fall, we will have a German Fest (similar to the Greek festival). The culminating event will be January 15, 2011. Plans are moving forward and a great way to energize the congregation to thank God for what he has done the last 50 years.

Board of Elders – Mark Horrigan

Mark reported there are 11 elders rolling off at end of this term. A training session was conducted this past Saturday and the board has 7 commitments and 2 pending which brings us a total of 9.

April 11 will be the Easter Prayer Vigil at both sites. Sign up sheets will be available at both locations. Elders will “man” the hours of operation.

Palm Sunday – spear palms will be distributed to the congregation. Thank you to Pam for burning the palms for the Ash Wednesday service.

Women's Ministry – Donna Petersen

March 7 was Bethany's Spring Retreat -- It's a Ladybug's Life. A total of 88 people attended the event. 29 of those were non-Bethany members. Donna indicated that it was a great time and everyone enjoyed it.

Youth Task Force – Craig Johnson for Michael Apfel

The Youth Ministry is undergoing a revitalization process similar to what Adult Ministry experienced some years ago. Things are going well. We are in our second month of bi-weekly meetings. Roger Johnson is serving as our facilitator and brings zeal and excellence in that role. Our three groups are chaired by Ken Ludwig (Mission Statement), Perry Clark (Board Revitalization), and Craig Johnson (Board Operations). Both youth representatives remain active in their advisory roles in this process. Grant Wekesser and Katie Roberts are impressing task force members as they have done so with the ministry leadership. The teams are to have their initial recommendations this week. We are still targeting a completion date of May 12th. At that time, the task force is scheduled to have their final recommendations ready for the board's review.

Adult Ministry – Troy Osborne

Troy indicated that the Ash Wednesday prayer breakfast took place with 55 men in attendance. It went very well.

Saturday, April 4 from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. there will be an event with guest speaker Pastor Garwood from Lord of Life. He will be discussing men's ministry. He will be coming to instill energy in our men's ministry along with some structure. Possibly take it up a notch. Invitations will be going out to about 30 men.

The Men's Ministry is discussing a service day project (for men). They are discussing what the project would entail, but there are various projects at the church or the possibility of helping shut-ins. The date has not been set yet but they are thinking it may coincide with the Fall Sermon Series. It would be done after church and men could wear jeans and go out and work after the church service.

Clean-Up is this Saturday, March 14 at Overland Park – all day.

Closing Prayer and Doxology - Pastor Bryan

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wilson
Secretary