

## Messiah Lutheran Church Council Minutes

July 12, 2007

**Present:** Lee Smith, Phil Pedersen, Pete Woods, Ken Grant, Pastor Scott Peterson, Dorothy Seitz, Linda Zutter, Rhonda Gaede, Tracy Armstrong, Claire Strand

The meeting was called to order by Ken Grant at 7:00 PM. Pastor Scott Peterson opened with a devotional from Romans 5 and prayer. Ken Grant then made some introductory remarks as to the role of the vice president as facilitator.

The first order of business was the audit report presented by the audit committee chair, John Pendley. He distributed the committee report and made the following key points:

1. The committee audited the building committee books and found them to be in excellent shape.
2. The committee found that all bills were paid appropriately and had good documentation.
3. The committee found some mismatches between the Quicken listing of transactions and the treasurer's report, none of which were serious.
4. The committee had some suggestions for improvement including presenting more recent financial information at the May congregational meeting and using a fund based accounting system.

Pastor Scott Peterson introduced Charlie Underwood to the council. Charlie gave the council a short description of his background including his Air Force experience and his current position at Intergraph. He shared his discernment process which has led him to plan on attending seminary in 2008. In preparation for seminary, Pastor Scott plans to involve Charlie in the ministries of Messiah. Lee Smith discussed some procedural issues based on his experience on the synod candidacy committee. The council members then introduced themselves to Charlie.

Anita de Jong made a presentation on the Stephens Ministries program. She has attended training and will be responsible for training ministers in the congregation. Support is needed from the congregation in terms of finances and awareness. Stephens Ministries provide care for God's hurting children in situations where confidentiality is a key concern. A need for locked file cabinets was presented.

The minutes were read. Rhonda Gaede requested a clarification of the action required of the Personnel Committee. Pastor Scott Peterson made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Pete Woods. The motion passed by voice vote.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Worship & Music:** Report is attached. Rhonda Gaede reported that postcards for music camp had been sent to all Sunday School students and VBS attendees.

**Outreach:** Report attached. Using pewpads in all services was raised as a new business item.

Stewardship: Report attached.

Youth & Education: Report attached.

Fellowship: Report attached.

Property: Report attached. The subject of the playground was discussed. Rhonda Gaede reported that \$324 was raised by Jayson Perry's car wash and that a total of \$750 in Thrivent monies from Care in Congregations and Join Hands Day are forthcoming.

Finance: Report attached.

Pastor's Report attached

Treasurer's Report: Lee Smith made some explanatory remarks. Pastor Scott Peterson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Linda Zutter seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

### **Old Business:**

The Long Range Planning Committee met on July 11 and is making plans for the council retreat program.

Rhonda Gaede discussed some issues involved with communication. She suggested that an enews listserv be created to inform/remind the congregation of events occurring throughout the week. She suggested that we invite people to subscribe to the listserv. Lee Smith suggested instead that we include all email addresses which have been provided to us, this amendment met with the approval of the council. It was noted that these email messages should not include any attachments.

Temple Talks: Planned temple talks include Bill Emerson on ILAG on July 29, LWR Kits by Rhonda Gaede on July 22 and Stephen Ministries at an undetermined time.

Mission Church: Pastor Scott Peterson explained that there is a meeting of the Mission Directors at which proposals for entering the field are presented. Proposals with financial support are more likely to be approved. Support sources include the ELCA, the Southeastern Synod, local congregations and the sponsoring congregation (Messiah). However, Pastor Scott explained that local support is generally used to support programs, not staff salaries.

Pastor Scott then showed a map of the Madison County area that showed growth areas. This map seemed to indicate that Harvest is the most likely candidate for a new church. He further stated that a builder developer costs \$70,000 – 75,000 per year and that a proposal which could show \$37,500 support from the sponsoring congregation would likely be approved and that proposals with support of \$20,000-\$25,000 support may be approved. The proposal would be for three years of support. The builder/developer would work ½ time at Messiah in the first year and transition to working full time at the mission church in the third year. It was decided to ask Marc

Neely to provide information as to how much money would be available for such a proposal. Lee Smith made a motion that the council was supportive of such an effort pending a report of financial feasibility. Rhonda seconded the motion. Ken called for a show of hands vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Committee: Activation of the personnel committee is an ongoing issue.

Council Retreat: The date for the council retreat was discussed as well as returning to Rauwood. Pastor and Ken will work on the logistics.

Redstone Federal Credit Union Drive-through: All agreed that the cut through to RFCU is a great success.

### **New Business:**

Fundraising: Pastor presented a letter from Bob Loshuertos regarding fundraising. Ken made a motion to table the issue and invite Bob to the next council meeting to discuss it. Dorothy Seitz seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

Music Together Contract: A contract for the 2007-2008 school year for Music Together was presented. Ken moved the contract be approved, Pete seconded and the motion passed by voice vote.

Pewpads: Rhonda Gaede moved that we use pewpads in all services and Ken seconded. Lee Smith suggested we take this action for three months and then review. This amended motion was passed unanimously.

At 9:41 PM, Rhonda moved to adjourn, Phil Pedersen seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Rhonda Gaede  
For Lois Graff