

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Church Council Retreat Minutes
Lutheranch
September 19-20, 2008**

In attendance: Pastor Scott Peterson, Ken Grant, Bob Gustafson, Lois Graff, Claire Strand, Celynn Ballard, Linda Zutter, Owen Wasmoen, Jim Daniel.

Friday

Pastor Delmer Chilton opened with devotions on Exodus 18.

Council Members as Spiritual Leaders: Pastor Chilton used the book “Transforming Church Boards into Spiritual Leaders” by Charles M. Olson to give a model for Council meetings:

1. History & Sacred Story
2. Biblical Reflection
3. Prayerful Discernment
4. ‘Visioning’ the Future

Realize that the history of Messiah Lutheran Church connects with God’s story, our sacred story. Use 30 minutes in Council meetings for Numbers 1 and 2. Ten-fifteen minutes for a faith biography from a Council member, followed by Lexio Divino: Read biblical text, each notes one word or phrase. Read another translation, each responds with a phrase or person that ‘jumped out’ at them from the reading. Read another translation, each responds more in depth of what God is calling them or Messiah Lutheran Church to do.

Prayerful Discernment is a part of Consensus Decision Making where if the Council cannot come to a consensus decision, the item is tabled until the next meeting to allow prayerful discernment of the item. Pastor Chilton recommends setting agenda to address action items (first) and committee reports (last) which should last about an hour. He noted that this is the model that the Synod suggests.

Visioning – What is our direction? Explore different area each month. Possibly model agenda like a church bulletin – work is worship.

Call Process: Pastor Chilton walked the Council through the steps of the call process that will be applicable to Messiah Lutheran Church in the search for a Mission Developer in the Harvest area. Resources are available on the synod website.

The evening session was closed with the *Holden Evening Prayer* worship service.

Saturday

Pastor Chilton led a Lexio Divino discussion on Acts 6. The Council was then asked the following four questions:

1 - If you came back to Messiah Lutheran Church after a year of being away, what would you like to see when you returned?

2 - What attributes does the community around Messiah Lutheran Church have that affect ministry?

3 - What do you see as the major issues that Messiah Lutheran Church should accomplish?

4 - What gifts does Messiah Lutheran Church have?

The Council responded:

DREAMS	COMMUNITY	ISSUE	GIFTS
Facility Expansion	BRAC (Population & Jobs) Great Growth	Proclamation of the Word and Worship	Music Program
Debt-free in 5 Years	Transience	Moving Forward on the Mission Church	Preaching
Every Member Engaged	Young – Concerned with Facilities and Programs	Open Communication	Concern for Mission
New Faces – Evangelism	Cultural and Racial Diversity	Discipleship	Affluence
All-Purpose Room for All Ages	Affluence	Making Visitors Welcome	Lutherans (Shared Theological Convictions)
Persons other than Parents involved with Children	Tornadoes, etc.		Staff
More Engagement with Community	Huge Strains on Infrastructure		Diverse Talents
Second Pastor/Youth Minister			Intellectuality
Retain Current Staff			Location
			Christ-Centered

With each Council member choosing 3 of each of the first three columns, Pastor Chilton compiled the most chosen data into three areas:

Discipleship/Engagement
Evangelism/Welcome
Youth

Target Statements were created for the first two, with Youth deferred because of the Pastor/Developer's substantial involvement with the Youth when he/she arrives.

Discipleship/Engagement:

In order to facilitate greater congregational involvement, we will increase Wednesday Night Café attendance by 25% by the end of the school year, exploring additional programming and implementing invitations and more communication.

Responsible: Celynn Ballard, Linda Zutter

Evangelism/Welcome:

1 - Recruit and train four new ambassadors by the end of November.

Responsible: Claire Strand, Ken Grant

2 - Develop witness strategy for Messiah Lutheran Church including:

Identify Recruiter

Recruit three people to attend the "Catch the Spirit" event on January 20, 2009.

Hold class or program for instruction and training on invitation to life of the church by May 2009.

Responsible: Claire Strand, Pastor Peterson

Pastor Chilton closed the Saturday session with a Eucharistic worship service.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Graff
Secretary