



Minutes of Church Council Meeting

July 21, 2011

Attending: Pastor Brown, Madelyn Soussoudis, Karen J. Cantrell, Elba Cabrera, Julie Hagen, Becky Eavey, Naomi Frost, Hans Kriefall, Damaris Maclean, Brian Peck, Rose Tregallo.

The following minutes summarize the council meeting. More complete information can be found in the handouts referred to in the sections.

Meditation: Becky Eavey Clawson read Matthew 14:22-23 and led a discussion about “big tasks.”

June Minutes were accepted with two changes:

- The center panel of the St. Paul window was damaged “many years ago”...
- Music Mondays has seen an increase of 200 people over the 2009-2010 season. “Averaging 150 per concert” will be taken out.

Pastor’s Report:

- Nine congregations were involved with confirmation camp at Koininia. Two youth from Advent attended.
- Meg Domroese’s wedding is happening; Betsy Armstrong and Fred Grumm are catering it; Danae Hudson is making the cake.
- PB will be on vacation in August. The vacation schedule for the staff will be posted in the bulletin.

Children, Youth, and Family:

- Vacation Bible Camp had 31 campers and 11 high school counselors – all had “great spirit.” Everyone went to the Brooklyn Children’s Museum for the last day.
- Six youth are going to Pittsburgh and will do service projects. They will stay at the Lutheran University Center.

- “Be Hungry, Stay Hungry,” a young adult retreat happened at Koininia with three other churches. Four pastors did a podcast.
- PB was involved with Project Connect at Oceanside. There were 18 young adults, prayer stations, a fire pit, and Bible study.
- Fall planning is underway.

Personnel Committee:

- Community Lunch cleaner - Rose Resgallo presented the job description for this new position, which was identified in the strategic planning session. With an average of 160+ guests, cleaning the kitchen, bathrooms, and more are physically demanding and not done consistently by the volunteers or the sexton. The money will come out of the Community Lunch dedicated accounts. The manager of the day, typically Lauren Johnson, would manage the cleaner. Council unanimously voted to offer the cleaner a flat rate of \$60 for up to 4 hours of work.
- Bookkeeper – Damaris Maclean updated Council on the search. Linda Kelly, Jeff Riehl, and one other have applied. They need to be interviewed by Personnel and Jane Huerta.
- Musicians – Damaris also presented the salary recommendations for Jordan Clawson and Aaron Wunsch. Council voted unanimously to
 - Increase Aaron’s salary from \$16,500 to \$18,000, which reflects the increase in his playing from half of the Sundays to two-thirds.
 - Increase Jordan’s salary will increase from \$8,700 to \$12,500, which reflects his taking on Voices of Praise and the Spanish ministry. Jordan will play one-third of the Sundays.

The rates for Sundays are the same for both, and the combined increases are more than Emily Ballentine’s salary. The salaries also follow ELCA guidelines and are in line with the findings of Nathan Urquhart’s survey of eight congregations. Any other salary increases would need to be proposed at the end of the year during budget discussions.

Note: Aaron’s involvement with Music Mondays is voluntary in line with the Lutheran model that the congregation performs certain tasks.

Property: PB presented the following, and more can be found in the July 21, 2011 Building Update.

- Reconstruction of the east wall is finished and the final cost is expected to be \$1,000 less than the original bid because fewer bricks than anticipated were required.

- Two consultants have looked at the altar and mosaic but bidding was deferred for a thorough tile-by-tile evaluation. The triptych and Tiffany mosaic bid was \$6,000.
- Julie Sloan bid on restoring the St. Paul window; however, because it is good condition, she thinks it will not need restoration for another 10 years.
- The rose window has broken and missing pieces of glass, and the outside masonry needs repointing. PB is more concerned about this window because the holes allow energy to escape. The cost to repair this window would be \$17,000; this includes the cost of scaffolding.
- The Christ and children window on 93d Street is in excellent condition, but because it is behind the elevator, it is not noticeable. Advent can choose to
 - leave it alone
 - Open and clean it (\$3,800)
 - partially restore it and return to the original location (\$12,430)
 - Restore and move it to another location in the building (\$33,000)
 - Install protective glazing (\$4,800)
- The tree pit on the south sidewalk has been fixed. Advent should consider making this more attractive, but not spend a lot of money because this spot is often hit by parking cars and a coffee cart.
- Thurosealing the fellowship hall corner will happen July 25-26.
- Council voted unanimously to replace the air conditioning compressor. The current compressor was a refurbished one, and it lasted five years. However, Gem recommended buying a new one because of the cost of the boom crane to hoist the compressor by the St. Paul window. The prices are as follow:
 - a refurbished compressor for \$3,800 + \$2,500 to lift it for a total of \$6,300
 - a new compressor for \$6,500 + \$2,500 to lift it for a total of \$9,000

Other Benevolence: Julie Hagen presented the First Half – 2011 Benevolence Distribution (see the report for more specific detail). Council unanimously voted to approve the following distributions, based on half of our budgeted giving of \$18,000:

- \$1,000 to Lutheran Counseling Center
- \$2,000 to Koininia, based on an average of \$10-20 per member
- \$500 to Women of the ELCA (over 100 people attended the Women of Color meeting at Advent earlier this year).
- \$2,000 to Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Kathy Carpenter and Brian Peck are both involved)

Organizations that were on the list but not funded include the following:

- Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries
- Gayle Lye Kliever Student Fund, providing scholarships to students in Tanzania, but not part of our Lutheran network
- Moriah Institute, training for faith based youth leaders.

Sidewalk Art: PB commissioned Hani to sketch a proposed sidewalk painting in front of the church building. She feels the painting would help attract more attention from the street. Hani bid \$4,500 to paint a more than 6 foot artwork that is estimated to last several months. He estimates the work would take about two weeks to complete. See hanisidewalkart.com for samples of his work.

Marks Bequest: Linda Kelly, Hans Kriefall, and Damaris Maclean have agreed to be on this committee.

Decisions: Council voted to do the following:

- Hire a Community Lunch cleaner to clean the kitchen and bathrooms and deal with garbage for \$60 for a maximum of four hours of work.
- Increase the salaries of Advent's two musicians. Aaron Wunsch's salary now reflects the increase in his playing from half of the Sundays to two-thirds, and Jordan Clawson's salary reflects his taking on Voices of Praise and the Spanish ministry. Jordan will play one-third of the Sundays.
- Replace the air conditioning compressor.
- Approve the following distributions:
 - \$1,000 to Lutheran Counseling Center
 - \$2,000 to Koininia, based on an average of \$10-20 per member
 - \$500 to Women of the ELCA (over 100 people attended the Women of Color meeting at Advent earlier this year).
 - \$2,000 to Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Kathy Carpenter and Brian Peck are both involved)

Minutes respectfully taken by Karen J. Cantrell