



Minutes of Church Council Meeting with the Stewardship Committee

October 20, 2011

Attending: Pastor Brown, Madelyn Soussoudis, Karen J. Cantrell, Elba Cabrera, Chris Dundon, Fred Grumm, Julie Hagen, Jane Huerta, Jennie Ingram, Becky Clawson, Naomi Frost, Lauren Johnson, Carlos Lopez, Damaris Maclean, Charles Miller, Chris Mitlowski, Ellie Sudbrock, Jim Sudbrock, Rose Tresgallo, Aaron Wunsch,.

The following minutes summarize the Council and Stewardship Committee meeting. More complete information can be found in the handouts referred to in the sections.

Financial Recommendations: Council voted to accept Hans Kriefall's recommendation to move three unforeseen expenses from Capital Improvements to be paid out of the Property Fund, specifically:

-Sidewalk repair 7/24	\$1,950
-Compressor replacement 7/30	\$9,000
-Chimney restoration 8/31	\$12,680
-TOTAL paid from Property Fund monies:	\$23,630.

Hans reported in his email that the updated balance of Property, showing these payments, is reflected on the Dedicated Accounts report. The decision to do this was to keep Property/Capital Improvements from being \$23,000 over budget for the year:

Budgeted for 2011:	\$18,000
Expenses through September:	\$41,230.

The decision is consistent with the intent of Capital Improvements budget line: to fund specific, identified projects from the Budget, as well as regular maintenance, with extraordinary expenses being paid out of Property should they arise.

Marks Bequest: Damaris Maclean reviewed decisions made by the committee, which plans to tithe to programs that help women in need, possibly in prison in honor of Helen Marks having been imprisoned by the Nazis.

Christmas Tree Sale: Council voted to give money earned from the Christmas tree sale to the Malaria Initiative, which would also qualify for Thrivent matching funds. Other suggestions for

funding included Trinity in the Bronx and the Advent food programs. Trinity received the money last year, and Council will consider funding the Community Lunch and Food Pantry programs more directly.

Strategic Planning: Charles Miller encouraged everyone to think in terms of 3-5 years, and to not be intimidated. We need to repeatedly re-test the decisions from the March 2011 planning session to make sure they are appropriate. He acknowledged that while getting people to commit for such a long term could be difficult, many tasks may not take that long. Once the paths are planned, new staff considerations as well as existing staff and volunteers will affect the planning and it may be possible to hand over implementation.

The Visual Hub is being created to keep the seven teams fully integrated with each other's work and tied to Advent's mission. (See the handout of the Manymoon system). When activated by the Visual Communication Team, the left column will list the seven task forces. Projects will show who is completing the projects, the tasks, the short term goals, milestones, and long term goals. Each project team will have a correspondent with authorship rights. Other team members will have a password and read-only rights. Small group conversations can be posted on the hub listed as an activity and placed on the calendar. The program, a Google calendar, costs \$20 per month.

Budget Committee: Naomi Frost agreed to be the Council representative for this committee.

Pastor's Report:

- Fred Grumm's mother passed away at 93, in Portland, OR. Donations may be given to ELCA Hunger, Maya Works.
- Barbara Lundblad's mother also passed away.
- Abigail Fernstrom, daughter of Scott and Cheryl Fernstrom will be baptized on November 13.
- Nine Seekers will be joining on October 23; there will be a new Seekers class this fall.
- The Muhlenberg celebration has been great fun.
- The King James Bible will be the focus of two Adult Education classes: November 6 and 27.

Stewardship Consecration: Pastor Chris Mitlowski from Gustavos Adolphus Lutheran spoke of how his church has become "a great renewal story" and "a congregation on fire for Jesus." The people of this church had lost their way, but after four years and some staff changes, as

well as other changes, their worship numbers are in the 90s, many of whom are children; offerings have doubled. The great leadership circle includes Tom Guverou, who serves as deacon, and Connie Cuver, director of the Senior Feeding Program.

Come ye thankful people, come is the Stewardship theme for this year. Pastor Mitlowski invoked the passage of Mary at the tomb, he asked us to think of Mary's head: she'd gone to bed grieving for her son, and later that day hears Jesus's voice, and her life is transformed. He's alive, and she is filled with the spirit. But he says, "Don't hold onto me." Her task is to tell others that he's alive again. Our task is to consider the whole: our talents, money, and time; we must think how to shepherd God's grace. (See the handout with excerpts from "Giving to God," by Mark Allan Powell, and "Grateful and Generous Hearts, by John Westerhoff).

"She Is Love" (see handout with photo and text by Catherine Ellen Money). Pastor Mitlowski was invited to speak about spirituality at an art show. The woman in the photo had traveled from Ohio to attend. She had been diagnosed 30 years ago with breast cancer and was afraid of losing her breasts, her sensuality, and her essence, but she said, "Jesus was with me all the way." One can see her radiance in the photo, a result of realizing that outward things don't matter. She discovered a deep love within.

Child of God, called by name; all that we have belongs to Jesus, so we should use our resources to commit to the glory of God. Fred Grumm held a bowl of water, and Pastor Mitlowski dipped into the bowl and then marked the cross of Christ on everyone's head as all sang "Amazing Grace." He asked how God is inspiring us to live. Pastor Mitlowski will preach at Advent on November 20 for Stewardship Sunday.

Pastor Sudbrock then asked each family unit to commit to Jesus to help His mission in the world with our tithes and pledges and passed out Estimate of Giving cards. The goal is to get all members of Council, the Stewardship Committee, and staff to commit. Deuteronomy 26: "Come into the land God is giving you."

Pastor Brown asked each person attending to invite five people to church and the chili cook off for Stewardship Sunday.

Council voted on the following decisions:

- To accept Hans Kriefall's recommendation to move the sidewalk repair, compressor replacement, and chimney restoration (a total cost of \$23,630) from Capital Improvements to the Property Fund.
- To give money earned from the Christmas tree sale to the Malaria Initiative, which would also qualify for Thrivent matching funds.

Minutes faithfully submitted by Karen J. Cantrell