

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Waconia, Minnesota
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday December 15, 2009**

Mission: To learn, serve and share the Gospel by growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, one another and those beyond our walls.

Vision: We will fulfill our mission through:

- *Unyielding faith in Jesus Christ*
- *Strong ministries that engage our members*
- *Active participation in our church and greater community*

CALL TO ORDER

John Roebke called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

| Council Members | Present | Absent |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| John Roebke, President | X | |
| Mike Haugsby, Vice President | X | |
| Chuck Dueber, Treasurer | X | |
| Marcia Willmsen, Secretary | X | |
| Dan Pannier, Life, Growth, Mission | | X |
| Tom Kurtz, Building & Maintenance | X | |
| Cindy Roelefs, Faith Formation | X | |
| Keith Sjodin, Stewardship | | X |
| Brian Everett, Worship & Music | X | |
| Chuck Stevenson, Social Outreach | | X |
| Ann Marie Powers, Youth Representative | X | |
| Austin Stole, Youth Representative | X | |
| Whitney Vacek, Youth Representative | | X |
| Dale Peterson – Sr. Pastor | X | |
| Elizabeth Roebke – Pastoral Assistant | X | |

Devotions – led by Brian Everett

New Member Update: Each council member was assigned a couple of new members to contact and welcome to Faith Lutheran. “Have you connected with a small group at Faith?” What did you learn? Life Growth and Mission will use our feed-back for their new member mission. Also mention the various ways they could get involved at Faith – contact Susie Watts. Most of us have had to leave voice mail messages with our new members.

REPORTS:

Pastor's Report - Pastor Dale:

- The Sunday School Christmas programs presented Dec 12th all went very well.
- Staff is very busy planning the Christmas Services. Many volunteers are needed to take care of all items at each of the Christmas Services. It is an exciting time.
- Elizabeth Roebke will finish her Interim Pastoral Assistant position here at Faith at the end of December. She will begin her work at the church in Billings Montana on Jan 3rd.

Call Committee Report – Scott Stole

- The call committee has been finalizing the details of the Congregation Profile packet regarding Faith Lutheran. Information for the Profile was gathered from the church office, Waconia Chamber of Commerce and various other sources to give a complete picture of our life at Faith and our life in Waconia and the surrounding areas.
- Scott thanked Pastor Dale and Mike Haugsby, Council Liaison to Call Committee, for selecting very qualified and committed people to be on the call committee. We have a very good representation of our congregation at large in this call committee. All members are very dedicated to their responsibilities of being on the call committee. Everyone arrives to meetings on time, is engaged in discussion and decisions during the meeting and they adjourn on time. Everything has been handled very effectively and efficiently.
- Once the Congregation Profile packet is submitted to the Synod they post our available position for Associate Pastor and will then begin directing candidates to us. Pat Hanson is the ELCA Synod contact person we are working with through this process. This will be submitted to Pat Hanson, Bishop's Assistant, Roster/Call Process, at the Synod. Once submitted, Pat will begin referring possible candidates to the Call Committee and Pastor Dale. Qualified candidates will be interviewed by Pastor Dale and the Call Committee. We hope to begin receiving candidate's resumes by the first or second week of January.

Chuch Dueber made a motion to approve the Congregational Profile as presented to the council with the exception of re-wording one item within the "Purpose" section of the profile. Brian Everett 2nd. All approved, motion carried.

Action Item: All future updates as to the progress of the call committee will be given to Mike Haugsby who will forward to Marcia. Marcia will forward to all Council Members.

Youth Representative Report – Ann Marie Powers and Austin Stole:

- The Sunday School Christmas Program was a lot of fun. Ann Marie Powers and Austin Stole led the music for the little ones at the 11:00 service. The kids really sang their hearts out. The Waconia High School Chamber singers will be singing at Sunday Dec. 20th at the 8:00 and 9:30 services.

Youth and Family Director update – Mike Haugsby:

- We are still waiting for more resumes to come in. No further interviews have been scheduled at this time. We just received one resume in from an experienced candidate. No further interviews have been scheduled and will not be scheduled until after Christmas. The position is still posted. Sue Megrund has an open end contract with Faith Lutheran. All Sr. High Youth programs are running smoothly. Pastor Dale said that our programs are running well with Sue's help.

Stewardship Report – Mike Haugsby:

- Pledges for general giving are continuing to come in, but we are still falling short of what we will need for our projected budget in 2010. Stewardship is ready to send out letters to those families who have pledged in the past but have not yet pledged for 2010. Letters will not be mailed until January. John said it might be better to make a phone call. The purpose is more focused on how our families are doing during this hard economic time. We need to let our members know of our shortfall and our goal is to encourage members to increase their giving slightly - \$5 to \$10 more per week if you can. If every family did this we would meet our projected budget. If not, we may need to look closely at our programs and staff and determine where we may be able to cut.

Treasurer's Report – Chuck Dueber:

- Chuck presented a Finance Resolution to Council. The purpose of the Resolution is to address the issue of transferring money from our Capital Campaign funds to cover our general operating budget. We have done this for the past few years, when receipts are low. It is considered a no interest loan – borrowing from our own funds rather than paying interest at a financial institution. The Finance Committee has put together the following Resolution to address this issue and put a new procedure in place.

❖ Finance Resolution, (12/15/09)

Whereas Faith Lutheran Church continues to sponsor Capital Fund Drives to support the payments of monthly mortgage principle and interest, and

Whereas Faith Lutheran Church specially completed the 2009 Capital Campaign with the prime purpose of reducing debt,

Whereas Faith Lutheran Church continues to use Capital Campaign building dollars to temporarily fund the general operation of the church; and therefore,

The Finance Committee recommends to the church council to stop using building dollars for the general operation of the church,

And further recommends that when the general banking account falls short of operational funds, that the council authorizes the use of account # 10500, Thrivent Financial Designated Funds, often referred to as the "rainy day" account, to fund additional dollars for the general operation of Faith Lutheran on a temporary basis only, and that such funds be paid back by year end,

The Finance Committee further recommends that if “designated funds” run out while assisting the general banking account, that the church council borrow funds through a line of credit at Klein Bank in Waconia, or, have the Senior pastor contact current major donors to the current Capital Campaign, to ask permission to use their capital campaign dollar contributions to support and use as general operational dollars, again on a temporary basis only.

A motion was made by Mike Haugsby to approve the Finance Resolution as stated above. Tom Kurtz - 2nd. All approved, motion carried.

Monthly Treasurer’s Report – Chuck Dueber – Treasurer

- General Operating Budget - The receipts during November were slightly higher than what was received in Sept and Oct. This leaves our balance at \$96,059.87. The Building Fund balance as of November 30th was \$12,075.39. The Projected Revenue to be received in December is \$80,750.00 which is 95% of what we received in December of 2008. If this holds true, the projected year end balance for our General fund will be (\$6,218.40) which is approximately \$25,000 better than where we were at the end of Dec in 2008. We hope this increased giving will continue through year end, which has been the trend for our members for the previous years. If this holds true we should end the year well.

Motion made by Mike Haugsby to approve the Monthly Treasurer’s report. John Roebke – 2nd. All approved – motion carried.

A suggestion was made by Chuck Dueber to have a paragraph reflecting Offerings and Gifts each week. This would be a snapshot of where we are at with revenues and expenses for both the General Operating Budget and the Capital Campaign. Discussion was made as to whether this was effective for membership giving or not. Pastor Dale provided an article from The Parish Paper which stated it is better to give periodic information to members of the good work that their contributions are doing rather than weekly reports of current revenue condition.

Action Item: The Accounting Policy will be reviewed by Council at the January 19, 2010 meeting.

Action Item: Quarterly Staff Luncheon – goal is a time of sharing, get to know one another and affirm our staff. The next luncheon will be held January 12, 2010. John Roebke will host. All council members and staff are invited.

Next meeting will be January 19, 2010 at 6:30 pm. Devotions will be led by Tom Kurtz.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Closing – The Lord’s Prayer