

**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WACONIA, MINNESOTA**

**Semi- Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2008**

78 members attended.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Brian Everett called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Pastor Dale opened the meeting with a prayer.

MOTION – Charlie Streiff. Be it resolved that Faith Lutheran Church approves the Minutes of the June 1, 2008 Congregational Meeting with the change to the meeting call to order “After a short recess Genz reconvened the meeting at 10:00 am...” Seconded by Liz Heagle. Passed by majority vote.

Long-Range Planning (LRP) Committee Update: Cindy Schmieg reviewed the Mission/Vision and major strategies. Ministries are now working on developing goals to meet the strategies. Brian Everett reminded us that the plan gives us focus and mentioned the work Council has completed to date. Full long range plan roll-out is scheduled for Dec 7.

Staff Report: Pastor Dale mentioned Council members and reviewed the Council organization. We now have 17 staff, only five of them have been here for more than four years. Our staff is young and great.

Pastor Dale reviewed the meeting document showing that we have 51 baptisms in the past twelve months, 38 affirmations of baptism. Only 13 members transferred out of FELC and we received 80 members. Average weekly attendance is 466. Our total baptized membership is 2,378.

Pastor Dale commented that according to Synod guidelines, there is typically one full time pastor for every 700 members. While we are behind that, we are not in a position to add.

Tammy Nyman thanked Pastor Dale and staff for their leadership and great work on behalf of the congregation.

Q: Keith Sjodin asked if there are any other staff additions on the wish list. Pastor Dale responded that an administrative secretary would be helpful. As we grow and our numbers grow we add more communications that is overwhelming Jean Kurkowski and Mike Christopherson.

Financial Report: Brian Ebent shared the financials covered in the meeting documents. Specifically he commented on, Revenues received from offering through October were \$467,499. This is behind where we hoped we'd be. There are 106 families who have exceeded or met their pledge for 2008. There are 166

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families that are not current on their pledge. Tallying those families behind on pledges equals about \$77,000. If everyone was current, we'd have a financial report today that is positive by about \$6,000.

Brian reviewed where the offerings monies are used by reviewing spending year-to-date through October.

Admin Supplies	\$ 29,363
Faith Formation	\$ 40,475
Property	\$ 46,954
Staff	\$384,373
Worship	\$ 5,335
Mission	\$ 68,888
Misc.	\$ 14,326

Total expenses year to date through October are \$589,714.

Brian further broke down spending on Benevolence Opportunities for this year. The following are monies given from offerings received.

Synod	\$29,500
Lutheran Social Serv.	\$ 1,650
Redeemer Ctr. for Life	\$ 5,833
Our Saviors Shelter	\$ 355
Waconia Food Shelf	\$ 1,850

In addition to offerings receiving, the Monthly Mission Offerings given by the congregation are not included in offering revenues for FELC. These go directly to the organizations. To date we have contributed to 11 organizations in this manner.

Total benevolence to date in 2008 was \$50,827.

Mortgage: We have a 5/1 adjustable rate which is at a low 4.875% now. This will reset in 2010. The monthly mortgage payment is \$15,588 paid from the capital/building campaign.

The current capital campaign (Forward in Faith) ends Dec 31, 2008. Congregation members will need to continue contributing to that fund so that we can make our mortgage payment.

Q: Chuck Dueber asked what is the balance of the capital campaign building fund? Brian Ebent explained how the building fund is covering our negative operating fund finances at this time. It is hoped that by end of the year we will receive offerings that allow us to return the building fund balance. At this time, the building

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contributions received in September and October have not been placed in the Capital Campaign fund. Approximately \$60,000 is being withheld.

FELC has paid approximately \$500,000 directly to our mortgage principal over the past three years.

Question: Herb Monson asked for a description of what we will do when the current capital campaign ends. He wondered if we will have another capital campaign or communicate to people they should continue giving. Brian responded that we have a bridge campaign beginning in 2009 asking people to continue to paying into the capital fund so we can make mortgage payments. We will hire another capital campaign firm and look to begin another capital campaign in 2010.

Forward in Faith 2006-2008 Capital Campaign: Brian reported on the campaign that there were \$1.3 million in pledges; as of 9-30-08 we have received \$1 million (77%) of those pledges.

2009 Stewardship Update: As of Friday, we have received commitments of \$495,000. This is from 234 families pledging. FELC has 488 family units. We are \$80-90,000 behind where we were last year at this time on pledges. In analyzing the pledges received, it can be noted that there are a good number of people who pledged more this year than last year, it's the lower number of pledges that is causing the short fall. The Stewardship Ministry did a mailing and a phone-a-thon contacting those who have not pledged.

2009 Budget Update: As of Tuesday's Council meeting, FELC was \$230,000 short of revenue to meet the desired expenses. Council will look hard to minimize expenses and we hope to obtain additional pledges. Brian emphasized how important it is to take care of staff to keep motivation up.

Question: The Mission expenses listed were \$68,888. Why is that so high? Brian Ebent responded that \$39,188 of the monies given in benevolence goes through account.

MOTION: Keith Sjodin motioned to adjourn the congregational meeting.
Stan Gunn seconded. Passed by majority vote. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Schmieg, Council Secretary