

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Waconia, Minnesota
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday March 9, 2010

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*

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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 Roelofs, Faith Formation	X	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	

Devotions were led by Chuck Dueber.

Welcome Mary Toufar!! Mary is Faith's new Youth and Family Minister. Mary shared with council members who she is and her experiences as Program Director for the past 20 years at bible camp.

Jean Krukowski - Staff/Communications - Electronic Correspondence - Jean met with Council Members to explain our website and newsletter processes to help us better understand what is needed to reach our goal of less paper and more electronic correspondence regarding our monthly newsletter and e-mail communication of other items. The monthly newsletter has been on our website since the website was created. We just need to communicate and direct our congregation members to read the newsletter online rather than receiving a paper copy. Question: should we e-mail a copy of the newsletter to our members each month? Should we e-mail a reminder to our members each month with a link to our website and newsletter? We would continue to print and mail a newsletter to our members who do not have Internet access.

Another Option for electronic correspondence would be an ELCA approved professional marketing contact service called "Constant Contact". This service would help us create e-mail distribution lists and the capability to easily send e-mails to our members. This service maintains the quality of all e-mails by controlling fonts and other items. The fee for this service would be \$15 per month per 500 e-mails. We could do more things via the web such as Sunday School and Confirmation registrations, Camp registrations, etc. We could also create many different distribution lists via this service. Constant Contact would also have reporting features which could help us monitor some items such as Sunday School registration.

An issue we may face in electronic correspondence is that people change their e-mail addresses and do not communicate the changes with Faith. Our existing e-mail list has not been updated for a couple of years.

Chuck Dueber made the motion to approve the concept of electronic communication and encourage staff to act accordingly. 2nd - Cindy Roelofs. All approved - motion carried.

Action Item: We should all be communicating with all members that the newsletter is on the website in an effort to start getting people to move from mail/paper communication to website/e-mail/electronic acceptance.

Associate Pastor Update - Scott Stole - Call Committee Chairperson. The Call Committee has done significant work and we are on schedule in our timeline for designating a candidate for the Associate Pastor position. The Call Committee members and Pastor Dale have made a unanimous endorsement of a single candidate as of Feb 28th.

When the call process began, we prayed for God's guidance in helping us select the right candidate for Faith Lutheran. Scott reminded us of our sincere belief that when anybody or organization appeals to God for guidance, God will listen and he truly believes we have seen the Holy Spirit working in this call process. With the recent hiring of Mary Toufar, a very experienced and well educated Youth and Family Minister, the committee feels very confident with the placement of the candidate they are presenting for approval by the Council.

The Call Committee's recommendation, after much consideration, is to consider Travis Gerjets as our next Associate Pastor. Travis is a 1st call seminarian. Travis is young but a spiritually mature person. He describes himself as having a youthful body with an old soul.

Travis is an intellectual deep thinker and continuous learner. It is evident he has a “genuine” faith in Jesus Christ. He is slightly non-conventional, but in a positive way, which will help him to connect with all age groups. Travis is strongly endorsed by Bishop Peter Rogness (current bishop for Travis) and Pastor Gregg Helland (Travis’s Pastor during his youth) and is endorsed by Pastor Dale as a good fit with Faith’s current staff. Travis Is currently doing interim work in Marshall with his wife Brandi who is also a Pastor and also looking for her first call.

The Call Committee Unanimously, enthusiastically, and unreservedly recommends Travis Gerjets for the Associate Pastor position.

Question: Has the committee looked into the fact that his wife is also looking for her first call?
Answer: Yes, the committee did talk to Travis about the location of Waconia and it’s proximity to the metro area and the availability of many churches for his wife.

Question: How strong is he feeling about Faith?
Answer: Very strong and wanting to know more about Faith.

Pastor Dale - “Travis is the Pastor of the future and the hope of the church.” He is very solidly grounded, creative and will probably be able to connect with some of our members that may have fallen away.

Prior to calling a Congregational Meeting we will need to provide 2 weekly notices and one 10 day written notice to congregation to hold a Congregational meeting to vote on the approval of hiring Travis Gerjets.

Thanks to Scott Stole and the Call Committee for doing a great job during this call process.

Scott Stole - it is the recommendation of the Call Committee to have the Council go forward with this candidate.

Keith Sjodin made the motion to accept the call committee’s recommendation of hiring Travis Gerjets. Keith - 2nd - Chuck Dueber. All approved. Motion carried.

Scott Stole - thanks to the council for choosing great candidates for our Call Committee. The people chosen covered all demographics of our congregation.

Research on Other Church Councils: Most of us found that many other churches have 2 and 3 year council terms. We have heard of some having 3 year ministry liaison terms and 2 year terms for Executive Committee. It is good to research the structure of other churches regarding council.

New Member Follow Up - each council member was assigned a new member to contact and follow up by welcoming them to Faith Lutheran.

Pastor’s Report - Pastor Dale:

New Council Candidates: Nicki Wedge is interested in being the Council Liaison for Faith Formation, Angela Rud is interested in being the Council Liaison for Social Outreach. We are still looking for someone for Life, Growth and Mission.

We will continue to call possible candidates and will communicate via e-mail to all Council Members, of any positive response to our requests to be a Church Council Member. The start of new terms will begin in June. If we are able to have a Congregational Meeting in April, the combined council would meet in May and new terms would start in June.

We are discussing the possibility of having 2 year terms rather than 3 year terms. We will review the By Laws to see what we need to do to change this if necessary.

Faiths Fabulous at 40 variety show will be held March 24th at 7:00. We have a very good line up of acts for the show.

Pastoral Care - right now, there is a lot of illness in the congregation. There are 9 people with cancer that Pastor Dale is visiting, as well as other members who are needing Pastoral care.

Treasurer's Report

All accounts are good right now. There are no concerns or items to be taken care of out of the usual expenses. Chuck Dueber made the motion for Council to accept the February Treasurer's report. Keith Sjodin - 2nd. All approved. Motion carried.

Motion by Chuck Dueber to have Council authorize the Finance Committee to pay down our mortgage \$90,000 per previous discussion and recommendation of the Finance Committee. Keith Sjodin - 2nd. All approved. Motion carried.

Roof repair of south building is needed and as approved by Council, would be paid from the prior building fund. We have other repairs needed in gutter extensions and landscaping just to alleviate ice problems on sidewalk between the building that has been happening this year. Discussion and agreement to use funds from Forward in Faith building fund to cover these repairs.

Soup Supper serving on March 17th will be done by the Executive Committee of Council, Faith Endowment committee and Stewardship Ministry.

The Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly will be Saturday April 24, 2010 in Prior Lake. The deadline to sign up is March 19th.

Devotions April 20 - John Roebke.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

We closed by saying the Lord's Prayer.