

**Church Council Meeting**  
**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
**April 28, 2009**

**Present:** Pastor Ron Glusenkamp, Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry, Doug Aldrich, Kevin Dempsey, Peggy Furgason, Andy Gift, Heather Kekstadt, Joel Halvorson, Michelle Stone Kraus, Kevin McAuliffe, Karen Witt, Bill King, Becky Godec, Deb Bayles, Maren Dierks, Terry Pickett,

**Excused:** Don Abram, Sherri Koelbel

**Devotions:** Peggy Furgason

**March minutes** were approved as written

**Fellowship Team Report**

1. Deb Bayles reported that the Fellowship team is moving forward and has begun to implement its plans. The pilot session of the New Member class on 4/25/09 was very successful. The team is suggesting that all future sessions of the New Member class be conducted by a team that would consist of two hosts from the Fellowship team and two Council members. In addition, follow-up get together socials are planned to enable continued contact between the hosts and the new members from each specific New Member class. Support from two council members will be needed in July to assist in the next New Member class. The Fellowship team will now begin to focus on Visitors to Bethany.
2. The eighth grade retreat was a huge success. The spiritual gifts inventory was received with great enthusiasm. High school students were included.

**Finance Report**

1. See handout for March and year to date updates. Joel also gave a brief preview of the April results to date; actual contributions continue to be below budget during the six month transitional period.

**Budget Report**

1. Joel provided the Council with the budget summary and detailed expense budget by department.
2. There was discussion about the Spend Plan versus the Budget. Council reiterated that the proposed 2009/2010 budget would remain at \$2.1 M and we would manage the spend plan as necessary depending on actuals versus plan.

**Town Hall Meeting Report**

1. Council members shared feedback from the Town Hall meeting on April 19 and also shared feedback from their individual conversations with various members of the congregation outside of the Town Hall meeting. Pastor Ron and Doug Aldrich

ensured that there would be a response provided to all known e-mails and letters addressed to the Council and pastors by members of the congregation. There was discussion about many of the issues and questions that were brought up in the meeting. There was also discussion about the agenda and Council representation for the final Town Hall meetings on May 3. Town Hall Meeting 3 would not only focus on the proposed budget but also an overview of various program and ministry plans go forward.

**Plans Going Forward:**

1. See report presented by Pastor Ron and Pastor Ruth Ann: Equip, Empower Unleash – Mission Possible! A condensed version of this presentation was to be included in the 5/03 Town Hall meeting handout and agenda.

**President's Report:**

1. Motion made by Andy Gift and seconded by Deb Bayles to fund the summer intern with the Youth Fund and the internship program with Founders Campaign Savings. Actions approved by council.
2. Motion made by Karen Witt and seconded by Andy Gift for Council to approve a budget amount of \$2.1m for the 2009/10 fiscal year. Council approved unanimously.

**Other:**

1. Joel reported that he had been contacted by the personal representative for the latest bequest received by the church. More information would be forthcoming regarding the details of the estate and timing of any distribution to Bethany.

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Ruth Ann closed the meeting with a Prayer.