

Church Council Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church
July 28, 2009

Present: Pastor Ron Gluskamp, Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry, Andy Gift, Kevin Dempsey, Peggy Furgason, Heather Kekstadt, Joel Halvorson, Michelle Stone Kraus, Kevin McAuliffe, Becky Godec, Terry Pickett, Karen Witt, Don Abram, Sherri Koelbel

Excused: Bill King, Maren Diercks, Deb Bayles, Doug Aldrich

Walk with Jesus: Sherri Koelbel

Andy called the meeting to order at 7:20p.m.

June minutes were approved as written

Guest Speakers: Dave Malucky and Dave Okes, representing the Facilities Team

1. Dave M. and Dave O. handed out the 2009-2012 Capital Improvement plan which summarizes maintenance and repair priorities as set forward by the Facilities Team. The tinting of the upper west sanctuary windows is scheduled to be completed next week. Other projects for this time period, depending upon the funding available and emergency situations that may arise, are the roof replacement in the admin area, HVAC system in the sanctuary, technology upgrades in the sanctuary, new carpet for office area, resurfacing of the east parking lot, and narthex area roof replacement.
2. A sub-committee of the Facilities Team will be created to study options for sound and lighting upgrades in the sanctuary. It was suggested that the expertise of a technical analyst be enlisted.
3. A second handout showed the six highest priority projects and how they relate to the MVG, as well as safety, security and stewardship of assets. Pastor Ron commended the team for their work and their passion. Peggy suggested that intentional communication with the membership prior to each project will help engage them in the process.

Pastors' Report: Pastor Ron, Pastor Ruth Ann

1. Pastor Ron reported on the National Youth Gathering and praised Kevin for his leadership.
2. Pastor Ruth Ann and Pastor Ron continue to visit with Bethany's XYZ and Young at Heart participants to discuss their needs and desires for senior programming beginning in the fall.
3. Pastor Ruth Ann hosted a get-together at her home for the most recent new member classes.
4. Members of the Faith Formation Team will be spending the day with Pastor Paul Hill on July 29 for faith formation coaching.
5. Pastor Ruth Ann said that she hopes to have data completed on pastoral care and caring visitors by the end of August.
6. Pastor Ron said that it's important for Council members to look with the Executive Committee at whether or not Bethany's staffing and programming are closely aligned with and consistent with how we want to achieve MVG.
7. Pastor Ron challenged the Facilities Team to strategically look at a solution for creating a chapel from space that already exists such as the library or the computer lab, in order to facilitate smaller sized weddings and funerals. There is currently \$32,500 in restricted funds for the chapel.

Finance Report: Kevin Dempsey, Joel Halvorson

1. Kevin reported that contributions for the 6-month transitional period were \$57k less than budget but because staff was able to hold down spending and manage expenses, we had only a \$5k loss.
2. Joel reported that July was not a good month for contributions with \$112k in General Fund giving vs. a budget amount of \$135k.
3. A handout was provided for discussion of the \$225,000 bequest. We have received \$100,000 of the funds, which are currently in a savings account earning a small amount of interest. Conversation regarding use of the funds included debt reduction, facilities repair, chapel and continuing education

for staff. Joel's recommendation was that the primary criteria for its use be to reduce (and not increase) Bethany's future financial obligations nor should it be used to offset current obligations of the General Fund. A decision on whether to use \$71,000 for debt reduction will be determined at the August Council meeting upon recommendation by the Executive Committee. More discussion will follow.

Health & Wellness: Pastor Ron, Pastor Ruth Ann

1. Pastor Ron described the position of Health & Wellness Director and asked Council for their blessing to move forward with plans to fill the position through the agreement with Covenant Village as outlined at the June Council meeting.
2. He explained that Paul Gilbertson, who has been serving as visitation pastor, will have his hours decreased when Caitlin Trussel, the pastoral intern begins in August.
3. He described how he sees the roles and relationship of the pastors, the pastoral intern and the Health and Wellness director, emphasizing that the Health & Wellness director would support the staff, as well as the congregation.
4. There was discussion about the different options available with regard to funding the position. The consensus of the Council was that the Executive Committee should manage the details of the process moving forward. Andy invited input from Council members prior to the August 11th Executive Committee meeting.

Worship & Music Report

1. Pastor Ron reported that the Worship & Music Team is continuing their study of the Sunday Assembly. He and Ruth Ann have also been meeting with the music staff, who will begin their study of the book shortly.
2. Pastor Ron has been meeting with individual members of the music staff to determine where they see the music program going.
3. The Worship & Music Team will develop five core beliefs or values to give to the search committee for Kathy's successor.
4. The planning team for Kathy's celebration has sent out a "save the date" postcard for the event on September 27th and submitted an article for the August Beacon. More information about the celebration will be available at the August Council meeting.

Vice-President's Items: These items were tabled until the August meeting.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 9:40pm.