

Church Council Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church
June 23, 2009

Present: Pastor Ron Glusenkamp, Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry, Doug Aldrich, Andy Gift, Kevin Dempsey, Peggy Furgason, Heather Kekstadt, Joel Halvorson, Michelle Stone Kraus, Kevin McAuliffe, Becky Godec, Deb Bayles, Maren Dierks, Terry Pickett, Don Abram, Sherri Koelbel

Excused: Karen Witt, Bill King

Walk with Jesus: Doug Aldrich

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

May minutes were approved as written

Guest Speakers: Ron Bruggeman, Stewardship Ministry Team; Joni Grundman, Family Ministry

1. Ron Bruggeman told about his background in stewardship and the most recent work of the Stewardship Ministry Team, the formation of a charter. He called attention to their vision and objectives and emphasized that their focus is one of balance among time, talent and treasures. They will be working with the Fellowship Team to ensure that the spiritual gifts inventory process continues to be implemented. Discussion included spiritual gifts measurement, consecration Sunday model, size and make up of the committee, plans for communicating stewardship principles through web, print, temple talks and educational opportunities. Following discussion, Kevin made a motion to approve the stewardship charter; 2nd by Deb; Council approved the charter unanimously.
2. Joni Grundman reported on the origin and evolution of Bethany's Family Ministry program, emphasizing that parent and family involvement are key in the faith development of our children and youth. The program began with a potluck in February 2008 with 13 families attending, 10 of whom have no extended family in the area. Joni's goal was to get a small group going with some lay leadership. She said that since that first meeting, Matt and Lisa Christian have taken leadership of it and helped it grow to as many as 20-25 families at some events. An event is planned each month and the focus varies from service to fellowship to faith and worship. She reported that attendance continues to grow and that it's becoming a transformational ministry for those involved. Long range planning includes a robust program for marriage and couples care, something for new parents and support for parents with teens in crisis. Discussion included getting new members hooked in and plans for a hospitality team within Family Ministry, especially for families with newborns. Joni said there is lots of energy and joy around the success of the program, which began as a ministry for families with young children but has grown to include families of all ages and sizes. She predicts the work of this group will provide a very strong youth group in 6 or 7 years.

Pastors' Report: Pastor Ron, Pastor Ruth Ann

1. Pastor Ron highlighted Bishop Hanson's request for 50 days of prayer beginning on June 29 and leading up to the churchwide assembly. Pastor Ron and Peter Mayer have been asked to lead a Bible study at the assembly on August 21st.
2. He reported that Paul Gilbertson has begun as visitation pastor. Pastoral intern Caitlin Trussell will begin her ministry at Bethany on August 24th. He said that anyone interested in serving on the Intern Committee should let him know.
3. The Worship & Music Ministry Team have been meeting regularly and making progress talking and learning with each other. Maren asked about the diversity in family makeup of members of the team, such as whether any of them had children. Pastor Ron said the question warranted further thought and discussion. Doug reemphasized the need for diversity in committee membership.

4. Pastor Ron and Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt are planning a project with youth, families and the spiritual gifts assessment, which would include home visits to 5th – 12th graders.
5. Both Pastor Ron and Pastor Ruth Ann will be visiting with XYZ participants this summer to assess their needs and gifts.
6. Pastor Ron and members of the Health Cabinet have been in conversation with Covenant Village regarding filling the parish nurse position. He explained how the salary would be subsidized over the first year and distributed the draft job description, developed by the Health Cabinet.
7. Pastor Ron provided copies of his 100 day report and highlighted the ways in which Bethany's strengths have been built upon as well as the areas for growth which have been addressed through the work of Council in developing the Mission, Vision and Goals and the Faith Formation Team in implementing a new model for ministry.
8. Pastor Ruth Ann spoke about the Iowa mission trip and the relationships built among the kids through their service work and fellowship.
9. She is looking forward to her new roles in leadership of the Faith Formation Team, Stephen Ministry, Caring Visitors and supervision of staff. She also reported that the theme for Wednesday night worship this summer is "Bad Girls of the Bible".

Finance Report: Kevin Dempsey, Joel Halvorson

1. See handout for May and year to date updates. Joel stated that general fund giving for the third Sunday in June was \$23k, falling short of the desired goal of \$30k. He said that the shortfall would most likely not be made up during the last week of the month, but that fortunately, expenses are also below budget so a discussion regarding what to do in the event of a shortfall shouldn't be necessary.
2. Joel introduced two proposals for the expenditure of funds from the Founders Campaign savings.
 - A request from the Facilities Team for tinting the upper sanctuary windows to help with excessive sunlight at a cost of \$1800
 - A request to fund the planning and implementation of a new intergenerational VBS/summer Sunday School program at a cost of \$12,500 for salary and benefits for staffing. Rit Vogel has been offered the position which would consist of 10 hours/week from July 1 through December 31, 2009.

A motion was made by Andy Gift to approve the proposals; second by Terry Pickett. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Joel reported that the organizational structure of the staff is being further revised and will be presented at the July Council meeting.

President's Items: Sherri provided a handout which outlined the scope of work for the proposed Communications Task Force, including print, web, onsite and oral communications. She explained that the job of the task force would be to audit current communication methods and make recommendations using research as well as the results of the audit. The plan is for the committee to consist of ten members. She asked Council members to email her with comments and suggestions.

Pastor Ruth Ann closed with prayer at 9:10pm.