

# The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

## Council Minutes

March 12, 2009

**Present:** Karen Olson Marcia Kjesbu Lynn McCallum  
Gery Gerst Spike Millman Jamie Huzinga  
Ralph Birmingham Carolyn Wagner (sec'y) Ron Tuvey, President

**Ex-officio:** Pastor John Rosenberg, Pastor Chuck Harris

**Guests:** Missy Tade, Jim Pence (Kairos Institute), John Aakre & Lori Sather (Stewardship)

**Absent:** Leo Eliason, Steve Peterson, Marcia Riggers

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. Rm 114

**Gather Together: Experience, scripture and prayer** Reflections on where we have seen God this month. Scripture: Psalm 19; devotionals led by Pr John. Reflections and comments on this passage. Prayers for our world, community, and congregation.

**Develop our Leadership Skills (Learning feature):** A conversation with Jim Pence, introduction by Pastor John: In a time of anxiousness and change – fidelity to mission is a most powerful tool for congregations. There can and should be an intersection of stewardship, planning, mission and leadership. If we are able to proceed with vision and boldness we may discover an emerging sense of identity and purpose. “Change or Die”

Overview and proposed process (Holy Conversation):

*Mission and vision discernment:*

1. Who are we now? Test status of mission and vision, understanding of it and whether or not we are living it.
2. What is God calling us to do next?
3. Who are our neighbors, really?

*Resource Assessment:* Build on strengths - Leadership and Organizational Development:

1. Central to the life and identity of the church and living out the mission
2. The vocation of ministry

*Leadership and Organizational Development*

1. What is our vocation? As individuals, as a congregation
2. Assessment of governance and accountability measures
3. Identify and have congregation endorse “provocative strategies”

*Determination of Stewardship Practices:*

1. Giving of ourselves flows out of mission and identity once seeing through the previous steps. – intended to inspire compassionate generosity
2. Design of comprehensive communications strategy for stewardship ministry
3. Everything starts with the mission.

Jim responded to questions: Time frame? 4 phases should be completed in 9 months; at that time we would determine how we want to proceed with a stewardship campaign.

Asset Mapping vs. Time/Talent? Assets are bigger than the individual (identification of resources such as institutional affiliations) which can bring great benefits to the congregation. Asset mapping was originally developed by community organizers. In contrast time and talent forms are created to recruit volunteers to meet the identified needs of the congregation.

Neighbors? Physical neighbors – engage them and find out what they think about us/ what do they know / what do they care about? Didn't we just do the mission/vision thing? Mission and vision discernment could function as an affirmation process. All steps are intended to be community building. Jim was thanked for his time to meet with us.

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## Practice Accountability (Reports, etc.)

1. Stewardship Report: John Aakre and Lori Sather (co-chairs of the stewardship committee) reviewed their preliminary plan for promoting stewardship in preparation for consecration Sunday. Carolyn moved that we accept the proposal of the stewardship team. Second Gery Discussion. Passed unanimously. Stewardship team thanked for their excellent work.
2. Planning for Annual Meeting deferred.
3. Pastor Chuck reported that caring community groups will be meeting March 8th.
4. Minutes: Spike moved that the February minutes be accepted. Gery second. Passed unanimously.
5. Administrator's Report: No report. See Pastor John's report attached.
6. Pastor John's report: The budget items have been reorganized into "5 Foundations for Ministry" (see attached report and retreat summary).
7. ASTP report: The ASTP board had decided to transfer \$6500 to general fund from their dedicated fund. This is a profound act of faith. Carolyn to write a letter of thanks.

## Implement our Mission and Goals:

1. Missy's report: Ongoing conversations about faith formation (see attached) – as a result of rethinking faith formation we will need to revisit/re-vision her job description.
2. Pastor Chuck's report: Update on practicing faith formation (see attached). Journey of Faith class continues to go well.
3. Olympia Community School (OCS) update: Ron reported that the OCS is interested in leasing the Christian center for up to 5 years. They are an accredited private elementary school with a long history in Olympia. Inspections are going forward. BMC does recommend that we entertain their occupancy / leasing possibility. Bob Wubbana has lease language which has been proposed and accepted with an escape clause of some kind. (20-40 students). Gery moved that we pursue this opportunity and authorize Steve Peterson to oversee contract negotiations in consultation with BMC. Spike second. Discussion. *Note:* we intend to continue the overflow shelter ministry and recognize that should this lease go forward we would need to reconfigure the space available for that ministry. Passed unanimously.
4. Council sub-committee on Succession Team recommendations: Report from Gery and Carolyn – see attached. The council assents to the plan as outlined. Spike will meet with Gery and Carolyn for one meeting to review constitution as requested in preparation for Annual Meeting.
5. RIC: has proposed an affirmation of welcome – posted in Narthex. The Council appreciates the good work the RIC is doing.
6. Should we move forward with the Holy Conversation etc. with Jim Pence. Discussion: we believe he is a key person who can help us maximize the opportunity/challenges we currently face. Several Council members pledged their intention to provide additional funds for this purpose. We will determine whether to use Jim Pence's serves for a stewardship campaign once we complete the Holy Conversation elements. Marcia K. moved that we accept Jim Pence's proposal for stewardship development parts 1-4 to be funded by special contributions above and beyond the budget, pending approval by the congregation at the next Annual meeting. Karen second. Passed unanimously.

Note: Marcia K. will write a council article for the April Sheepskin.  
The Council will be providing soup for the Lenten Supper on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Go in Peace and Serve the Lord:

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 2, 2009

**Closing :** The Lord's Prayer

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## COUNCIL MOTIONS

TOPIC	MOTION/ACTION	APPROVED	FAILED
<b>Stewardship Campaign Plan</b>	Carolyn moved and Gery 2 <sup>nd</sup> we accept the proposal of the stewardship team.	X	
<b>Approve February minutes</b>	Spike moved and Gery 2 <sup>nd</sup> the February minutes be accepted.	X	
<b>Olympia Community School Lease of Christian Center</b>	Gery moved and Spike 2 <sup>nd</sup> that we pursue this opportunity and authorize Steve Peterson to oversee contract negotiations in consultation with BMC.	X	
<b>Holy Conversation with Jim Pence</b>	Marcia K. moved and Karen 2 <sup>nd</sup> that we accept Jim Pence's proposal for stewardship development parts 1-4 to be funded by special contributions above and beyond the budget, pending approval by the congregation at the next Annual meeting.	X	

**Respectfully Submitted:** Carolyn Wagner

**Attachments:**

- Financial Statement for February
- Succession Team Follow up Report to Council 3.12.09
- Jim Pence proposal
- Pastor John's budget reconfiguration report
- Pastor Chuck's report
- Council retreat summary and meeting schedule

**Follow up tasks:**

**November 2008:**

- 1) Brainstorm new names to designate our service styles.
- 2) Don and Bob are asked to be sure to clarify to the congregation the function and mission of the Trust Board is as this series goes forward.

**February 2009:**

- 1) Review/re-vision Missy's job description in light of faith formation conversations.

**March 2009**

- 1) Council subcommittee (Carolyn, Gery and Spike) to review the LCGS constitution and make recommendations to the Council re: bringing it into conformity with the current ELCA model constitution.
- 2) Planning for Annual Meeting: worship plan, meeting style, location and advertizing.
- 3) Carolyn to write thank you letter to ASTP.