

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Council Minutes January 8, 2009

Present: Marcia Riggers (VP Programs) Leo Eliason (VP Business) Karen Olson
 Marcia Kjesbu Lynn McCallum Spike Millman
 Jamie Huzinga Ralph Birmingham Carolyn Wagner (sec'y)
 Ron Tuvey, President

Ex-officio: Pastor John Rosenberg, Pastor Chuck Harris, Steve Peterson, administrator

Guest: Missy Tade (arrived at 8:15pm)

Absent: Gery Gerst

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm. Rm 114

Gather Together: Experience, scripture and prayer Reflections on where we have seen God this month. Scripture: Acts 2:37-47; devotionals led by Pr John. Reflections and comments on this passage. Prayers for our world, community, and congregation.

Practice Accountability (Reports, etc.)

1. Email communication proved effective for emergency Council mtg.
2. Carolyn proposed that the topics, questions and pending proposals as they emerge in the weekly leadership meeting be provided to entire Council via email. Pr. John reviewed the history of the leadership team and functions thereof. Team now includes both Pastors, AIM (Missy Tade), Council President (Ron Tuvey) and both VP's (Marcia Riggers and Leo Eliason) and Administrator (Steve Peterson). Team will make an effort to provide info as appropriate
3. No choir in Jan and Feb while our volunteer director takes time off.
4. Pr Chuck – Caring community update
5. Jamie - Reconciled in Christ (RIC) update: The LCGS RIC group has been working diligently on their mission and vision statements:
 - a. Mission: "The mission of the RIC task force is to advance the LCGS mission of 'sharing the love and grace of Jesus Christ with all people by working within our congregation for greater inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities – no more and no less than all other children of God – particularly through the adoption by the congregation of a public statement of welcome and inclusion.
 - b. Vision: "We envision the day when our church is known as a place where it is safe and comfortable for anyone to share in the worship of Jesus Christ and is known as a community that is genuinely cross-centered, cross-generational, and cross-cultural."
6. Marcia R moved that we extend our appreciation to RIC for their work, we support the language of the RIC mission and vision and that we will work with the RIC to implement it appropriately within the congregation. Second Lynn. Discussion. Passed unanimously.
7. Welcoming Sunday: January 18, 2009. Form to be determined. Pastors are working with the RIC group to create a message of inclusion. Goal: flesh out the mission statement of welcoming "all people".

Develop our Leadership Skills (Learning feature): Pr Chuck led us in discussion of our reading from Transforming Leaders, chapter 6.

Summary: Servant leadership – marked by ambiguity and complexity. Often leadership style is on continuum of authoritarian to doormat. As servants to Lord Jesus we are

freed from authoritarianism and empowered to prevent others from walking all over us. Ideally, leadership provides an environment where building and healing can happen and all people are free to use the gifts that God has given them. Seven aspects of servant leadership: Relationship with power, physical presence, use of knowledge, appropriate understanding of role, relationships with others, decision making, and proclamation (use of one's voice).

Implement our Mission and Goals:

1. Minutes: Marcia R moved that Nov 13, 2008, December 11, 2008, December 14, 2008 and December 20-23 (eminutes) be accepted. Spike second. Discussion. Passed unanimously with various corrections.
2. Administrator's Report: Steve P. noted that Dec 2008 contributions are 7.8% higher than last year and is the highest single month giving in history of LCGS. We overspent our income by \$47,000 in the first 5 months of our budget. Current reserves (as of 11/30/08) are now \$49,600. The cuts that were implemented over the last month will allow us to put another \$29,000 into the reserve. By the end of June 2009 our reserve should have ~\$90,000 + \$20,000 in M2M (Goal: reserve should equal 6 weeks of usual expenses). It appears that with the current trend we should have a surplus of ~\$14,000. Sally has reconstituted The Sheepskin and it will be available on line and, if requested, by mail. Council article is needed. Ron will write article for January.
3. Leo moved we continue meeting past 9pm. Second Spike. Passed unanimously.
4. Pastor John report. See attached. Priorities for Ministry:
 - a. Faith Formation: a new direction – re-visioning Missy's job description and reconsidering the way we do faith formation (old models of Sunday School, VBS, Youth Group etc may no longer be effective)
 - b. Lift up ministry of the baptized.
5. Pastor Chuck – journey of faith/Catechumenate will be implemented soon.
6. Council subcommittee on the recommendations of ST – no report.
7. Current agenda style is now up for review. Leo moved we continue the current agenda for 3 more months and then re-evaluate. Marcia R. second. Passed unanimously.
8. Marcia R: Council Retreat 2/21/09 9:30-3:00 – topic: budget issues and amendments to the bylaws. Steve will send us info ahead of time.
9. Thanks to Jill Colella: ~\$150 – to be donated by Council members. Marcia K and Carolyn will arrange gift and etc. for her.
10. Reminder: 1) Personnel and financial issues are particularly sensitive and we need to keep them confidential. 2) Council members are the employers of staff. Recommendation to all members to get to know all staff members.

Go in Peace and Serve the Lord:

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 12, 2009 7pm Rm 114

Assignment: *Church-going Insider or Gospel-carrying Outsider*, Chapter 6, "Re-balance the Mission" and Romans 5:1-11.

Council Retreat: 2/21/09 at Marcia R. home, 9:30-3:00

AMMENDMENT: Council Retreat changed to 2/28/09, 8:30-12:30

Topic: budget issues and amendments to the bylaws

Closing The Lord's Prayer

COUNCIL MOTIONS

TOPIC	MOTION/ACTION	APPROVED	FAILED
RIC mission and vision	Marcia R moved and Lynn 2 nd that we extend our appreciation to RIC for their work, we support the language of the RIC mission and vision and we will work with the RIC to implement it appropriately within the congregation.	X	
Approve minutes 11/13, 12/11, 12/14, 12/20	Marcia R moved and Spike 2 nd that Nov 13, 2008, December 11, 2008, December 14, 2008 and December 20-23, 2008 (eminutes) be accepted.	X	
Extend meeting past 9pm	Leo moved and Spike 2 nd we continue the meeting past 9pm.	X	
Continue current agenda style	Leo moved and Marcia R. 2 nd we continue the current agenda style for 3 more months and then re-evaluate.	X	
Budget shortfall next steps	Marcia R. & Leo 2 nd moved that a) the proposed Level I budget reductions be implemented immediately, and b) the council meet the week of December 15th or as soon as possible thereafter, to determine the sequence, amount and timing of Level II reductions which includes staff functions, program ministries, mortgage, and facility maintenance necessary to align income with expense, and c) the congregation be advised that this action is necessary for Good Shepherd to act with integrity as stewards of scarce resources in these challenging times.	X	

Respectfully Submitted: Carolyn Wagner

Attachments:

Pastor John Council Report – 1/8/2008

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.

January 2009

- 1) Ron will write Council Sheepskin article for January edition
- 2) Council subcommittee (Carolyn, Gery and Spike) to review the recommendations of the Succession Team and report to the Council in February 2009, 1) how shall the Council implement on a regular basis and 2) are there areas requiring a special task force to address?
- 3) Marcia K and Carolyn to arrange gift for and congregational opportunity to thank Jill Colella for her years of service at LCGS.