

# The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

## Council Minutes

April 23, 2009

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

**Ex-officio:** Pastor John Rosenberg, Missy Tade, and Steve Peterson,

**Guests:** Barb Wakefield, (children's ministry), John Aakre and Lori Sather (co-chairs Stewardship)

**Absent:** Jamie Huzinga, Pastor Chuck Harris

**Gather Together:** Opening prayer – Pastor John

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm. Rm 114

### Practice Accountability (Reports, etc.)

1. Re: Jim Pence and Holy Conversation
  - a. Marica R. moved that we rescind the original motion 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. Second Leo. Discussion: It is the unanimous recommendation of the council and will be funded by members over and above their pledge to the general fund, there is no need functionally or constitutionally to obtain formal congregational approval. Passed unanimously.
  - b. Motion: Marcia Riggers moved we plan to contract with Jim Pence to lead us in Holy Conversation, (subject to being funded outside of the budget), and we advise the congregation of our intent at the Annual Meeting. Second Marcia K. Passed unanimously.
2. Report on congregational forums 4/17. Karen, Ron, Carolyn and Steve attended all three forums – disappointing turn out, though folks seemed to understand information presented. Good preview of questions we can expect at Annual Meeting. Discussion of money issues re: general fund vs. dedicated funds, need to highlight stewardship as faith practice, congregation awareness of budget shortfall is much less than desirable. Pastor John stated importance of communicating big picture issues to the congregation. Transformational budgeting –that we are about ministry rather than line by line budget issues.
3. Pledge card format: John Aakre and Lori Sather request guidance as they move forward with a whole church mailing re pledge and options.
  - a. Question – should we continue “Mortgage to Mission” (M2M) as budget line item? Marcia R. moved we design a pledged card with no designated funds specified. Second Marcia K. Discussion: currently M2M funds do not cover our minimum mortgage payment and therefore the principle has not been reduced through this fund. It is the Council's general feeling that we are generally better served by reducing dedicated funds, including the M2M fund. Passed unanimously.
  - b. Discussion about “Simply Giving” form and format – currently M2M is listed as a separate line of giving from the General Fund and additional options to also give to ELCA programs to combat world hunger etc. We recommend that for consistency we remove the M2M dedicated fund from the Simply Giving form, however, we hope to encourage giving to the larger mission of the ELCA therefore those opportunities will remain on the form separate from pledge to the General Fund.

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4. Stewardship Plan for kickoff Sunday – budget for the event presented by John A. and Lori S. Marcia R. moved we accept the proposal for the stewardship plan for lunch. Spike second. Discussion about importance of hospitality etc. re: consecration Sunday. Passed unanimously.

5. Budget: Steve presented budget status. Cash flow will determine whether funds are available for our programs. Pastor John wonders how much money is available in our various dedicated funds. A specific number is not currently known. Council requests that BMC have proposal for management of dedicated funds in time for next Council meeting. Leo and Steve will communicate this request to BMC. Leo moved we adopt the budget as proposed – second Marcia R.

Discussion: Barb Wakefield requested she address the Council. She is very sad and disappointed that her position will not exist after this school year. She stated that she believes children are the future of this church. She stated that she believes we are not fulfilling our mission if we do not fund her position. Pastor John noted that we also are unable to fund two other positions we had hoped to hire - a Worship/Music Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator. Ron asked Barb if she thinks this position could be reduced to 10 hours. Barb noted that VBS has been a huge managerial undertaking that requires a considerable amount of her time. Budget passed – one opposed.

It was noted this is a terrible situation which we are faced with financially and there are no ideal options. This is a very painful choice we are forced to make in our attempt to pass a financially responsible budget.

Pastor John asked us to recognize the faith formation programs of Sunday School and VBS are based on a model that was developed in the 1950's and are in need of revision to accommodate changing needs for our culture so that we positively influence kid's faith development. The fact that we are laying off Barb's position **is not** a reflection of our priorities nor does it mean that we do not care and value ministry to our young people. We are currently in a fiscal crisis which requires a congregational wake-up call. In May 2008, we passed a budget that was very ambitious and was \$160,000 over the prior years giving. We were hopeful that the congregation's stated desires would be met by increased giving. Unfortunately, giving increased by only 0.3% last year.

In explaining our current predicament to the congregation we should remind the congregation that the budget has been considered within the context that our first priority is worship and sacrament and the ways in which worship serves the fundamental purpose/mission to prepare God's people to do ministry in our daily lives – the ministry of the baptized. Our budget is not a laundry list of pet projects. We will take the concerns of congregational members under advisement and as funds are available the council will make decisions about how best allocate them.

6. New business: Ron noted that we have a plethora (9) of very qualified candidates for Council. A delay in reducing council membership to 10 until 2010 for a year would enable us to seat 4 new council members. Carolyn moved that we maintain the current membership of 11 for the 2009-2010 council year. Ralph second. Passed. Abstained, one.

### **Go in Peace and Serve the Lord:**

**Adjourn:** 9:15 pm – Leo moved we adjourn, Spike second. Passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 7, 2009

**Closing :** The Lord's Prayer

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## COUNCIL MOTIONS

TOPIC	MOTION/ACTION	APPROVED	FAILED
<b>Rescind motion to accept Jim Pence's proposal pending approval at Annual Mtg.</b>	Marcia R. moved and Leo 2 <sup>nd</sup> we rescind the original motion re: 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.	<b>X</b>	
<b>Contract with Jim Pence for Holy Conversation</b>	Marcia R. moved and Marcia K. 2 <sup>nd</sup> we contract with Jim Pence to lead us in Holy Conversation, (subject to being funded outside of the budget), and we advise the congregation of our intent at the Annual Meeting.	<b>X</b>	
<b>Removal of designated funds on Pledge Card</b>	Marcia R. moved and Marcia K. 2 <sup>nd</sup> we design a pledge card with no designated funds specified.	<b>X</b>	
<b>Stewardship lunch proposal/budget</b>	Marcia R. moved and Spike 2 <sup>nd</sup> we accept the proposal for the stewardship plan for lunch.	<b>X</b>	
<b>Annual Budget</b>	Leo moved and Marcia R. 2 <sup>nd</sup> we adopt the budget as proposed.	<b>X</b>	
<b>Maintain council membership of 11</b>	Carolyn moved and Ralph 2 <sup>nd</sup> we maintain the current membership of 11 for the 2009-2010 council year.	<b>X</b>	

**Respectfully Submitted:** Carolyn Wagner

**Attachments:**

- Proposed budget and supplemental budget
- Proposed budget for Stewardship Kick –off lunch

**Follow up tasks:**

**November 2008:**

Brainstorm new names to designate our service styles.

**February 2009:**

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

**April 2009:**

Steve will investigate how much money is currently set aside in dedicated funds. Once we have specific information, Council plans to reallocate those funds into the general fund within the parameters of the original gift.

Council requests BMC have a proposal for management of dedicated funds in time for next Council meeting. Leo and Steve will communicate this request to BMC.