

**APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
September 8, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Howard McNair, President. Howard began the meeting with a prayer. Present were Howard McNair, Julio Jimenez, Ken Brown, Dan Runge, Mary McDermott, Phil Haas, Richard Van Epps, SueAnn Collinge, Pastor Vige, Matt Hecmanczuk, Gary Carlson and Janet Wedlock. Kirsten Smith, Corky Lund, and Becky Loraamm were not present.

AGENDA ADOPTED. The Congregational Council Meeting Agenda dated September 8, 2009 was unanimously adopted as distributed. Pastor moved and Matt seconded to suspend the normal order of business and adopt a special order to fill the open council seat left unfilled at the last annual meeting. Council unanimously agreed. Pastor then moved that Council appoint Gary Carlson to fill the vacant two year term until the May 2010 annual meeting. Council concurred unanimously and welcomed Gary.

DEVOTIONS Pastor led the council devotions “What walls have you experienced in life? In the church?” based on Ephesians 2:11-22.

MINUTES APPROVED. The August 11, 2009, Council Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved as distributed. Mary requested that a list of those not present be included in the future.

STAFF REPORTS

Pastor’s Report. Pastor presented his reports for June, July and August 2009. He discussed the attendance statistics at the 11:15 service. Pastor is trying to confirm Pastor Jerry Wahl for a Council retreat either October 3 or 17. Pastor Wahl is ELCA deployed staff for mission congregations (see Stepping Out in Mission flyer.) Pastor reminded Council that he will be away Sept. 24 through Oct. 9. Sunday, Sept. 27 SueAnn will be preaching; Oct. 4 Pastor Neal will preach. Amy Santoriello will be preaching this Sunday at Apostles. She is working to start a ministry for un-churched young adults in the Ybor area. Pastor told the Council that Pastors are a shrinking commodity in the ELCA. The cost of education for the rostered ministry is a concern. We need to schedule special appeals for the Fund for Leaders and the World Hunger and Disaster Appeal. Pastor took the opportunity to express his family’s appreciation for the support his daughter has received from the Congregation while she is at Seminary.

Membership Changes Pastor announced that there have been several resignations by Congregation members after the ELCA Assembly. Pastor said he is greatly saddened. There was little discussion and the Membership Changes dated August 2009 were accepted as presented.

AIM Report. SueAnn presented her report dated September 8, 2009 to the council.

Finance Report. Dan discussed the August 2009 Financial Statement, commenting that he still hasn’t had to take money out of the Endowment Fund. He reported that at the end of July there was \$105,000 in the Fund. The Audit for 2008 is an issue. It should have been done in May 2008 and now the volunteer auditor has resigned. The audit should include Designated Giving. Council needs to appoint an Audit Committee by next month.

Designated Giving Report Phil provided the August 2009 Designated Giving Report. He noted that Meals on Wheels gets money from Boars Head proceeds. He stated that some items need to be consolidated as soon as possible.

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Church Administrator's Report. Julio reported for Ron Beisecker who was absent. Julio thanked Mary for the gift of a tractor. Ron is still working on the sidewalk estimate.

Preschool's Report. Julio reported for Ron who was absent. A preschool audit found that the carpet in 2 classrooms needed to be replaced. Sandy is getting a price for all 3 classrooms. They hope to do it over Christmas. The audit also found that a fence or gate is needed along the walk behind the bathrooms.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Discipleship This agenda item was skipped due to Kristen's absence.

Open Council Seats and Council Communication. Howard discussed.

Budget Ministry Howard stated that the committee will meet on Sunday and will not budget more the estimated income.

Membership List Mary passed.

Emergency Plan Julio said the Emergency Plan is established by Lutheran Services of Florida. Julio and Ron have not met to identify the contacts to plug into the plan. Council discussed the need for a written procedure to follow in the case of an emergency during Sunday services or another event. It was also discussed that the Preschool must already have a plan for its State certification.

NEW BUSINESS

ELCA Website Howard stressed that the ELCA website has a lot of information and Council should use it.

Ministries Howard reviewed the list of ministries and the council member assigned: Caring – Mary; Worship – Matt; Proclaiming – Ken; Teaching – none; Stewardship – Kristen; Service – none; Youth – Becky; Health – richard; Managing – Julio; Preschool – Gary volunteered for this assignment.

Simply Giving Phil reported that starting in Jan. it will cost the church 20 cents per donation to use this Thrivent service. He passed out the Simply Giving flyer and an email he received from Thrivent about the change. Council discussed options for automatic and online giving.

Other The Boy Scouts want to sell greenery before and after services in the brick area around the gazebo three Sundays in October: Oct. 4, 11, and 18th. Council agreed to allow it.

BENEDICTION

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted and recorded by Janet Wedlock

HANDOUTS 1) Congregational Council Meeting Agenda dated September 8, 2009, 2) Council Devotions dated September 8, 2009, 3) August 11 Council Meeting Minutes, 4) Pastor's Report for June, July and August 2009, 5) Stepping Out in Mission flyer, 6) August 2009 Membership Changes, 7) September 8th, 2009 AIM Report to Council, 8) August 2009 Financial Statement Comments, 9) August 2009 Designated Giving Report, 10) Simply Giving flyer, 11) Email from Vanco Services to Phil Haas dated Sept. 2, 2009.