

Zion Lutheran Church
Hummelstown, Pennsylvania
CHURCH COUNCIL

Regular Congregation Council Meeting
May 21,2009

Regular Council Meeting:

John Alwine	Don Sheaffer
Lynn Danilowicz	Dave Sonner
Luann Doyle	Charles Will
Chris Ehmann	Pastor Darlis Swan
Liz Joyce	Deacon Marsha Roscoe
Deb Kepner	Bonnie Rudi, Pres.
Jill Kiessling	Lori Beaver, V. Pres.
Greg Seitz	Mike Good, Sec.
	Nancy Hartman, Finance

Excused Absence:

Ed Engle

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Congregation Council President Bonnie Rudi.

Devotions and Prayer Concerns:

Since it was Ascension Day, Pastor Swan read the Biblical account from Luke 24: 44-53. The disciples were told to look to each other and to the future, not up to the sky. The Holy Spirit will be with us in this period of transition. She then closed with prayer.

Adoption of Agenda:

The motion to adopt the agenda was made by Council President Bonnie Rudi. The agenda was approved after a motion by David Sonner and seconded by Don Sheaffer.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the last Regular Congregation Council Meeting dated April 16, 2009, were presented by Secretary Michael Good. They were approved after the motion by Don Sheaffer and seconded by LuAnn Doyle.

Communications:

A letter was received from Synod to the Council President, Treasurer, and Pastor stating that the insurance for the bonding of financial people has been reduced from \$50,000 to \$10,000. In 2010 there will be no coverage. This is due to recent claims paid to other congregations. Lynn Knepp and John Long did Zion's audit. LuAnn Doyle will call to get estimates on policies for bonding.

Interim Senior Pastor's Report:

Darlis J. Swan

Dates April 16— May 21, 2009

Highlights and Concerns

- The health and wholeness of the Community at Zion
- Strong support of the People of Zion for the continuing mission and ministry
- The commitment and faith of our leadership
- The power of Christ's presence in the lives of our members — through joy and sorrow

Pastoral Contacts

Hospital Calls 5

Home Calls 3

Office Appts. 7

Pastoral Acts

Teaching "Biblical Roots of the Liturgy" - Bible Study for Senior Women 3/18

Preside at worship 12

Preach 6

Baptisms Rachel Louise Amspacker; Rebecca Emma Amspacker 4/26

Weddings rehearsals

Weddings

Funerals Lois Bonawitz 5/1; John Shuey 5/18

Administrative Acts

Meetings Attended 17

Continuing Education — "Preaching Perspectives — Pentecost", Lutheran

Theological Seminary at Gettysburg 5/14

Churchwide Involvement

- Lower Susquehanna Synod ELCA -Ecumenical and Inter — Religious Affairs Committee - Representation at Christian- Jewish Dialogue — "The Book of Genesis" — Temple Beth-El, Harrisburg 5/

Diaconal Minister's Report:

Name: Marsha Roscoe

Dates: March 18 – April 14

Highlights and Concerns:

- Final Preparations for the Holy Week Liturgies and Easter Liturgies.
- Ongoing Communications Concert – Drafted Proposal for Council's consideration
- Extra attention to Stewardship initiatives; trying to determine best way to proceed given the situational conditions Zion is under.
- A lot of young families struggling with significant health issues (in particular breast cancer – may want to consider a support network)

- Extra effort on the budgeting issues of Zion and determining how these changes will affect roles and responsibilities.

Vacation Taken: Sunday, March 29th

Pastoral Contacts:

Hospital Calls	4
Home Calls	1
Office Appts.	9

Deacon Acts:

Teaching	4 (Adults, Confirmation)
Preach	0
Weddings rehearsals	0
Weddings	0
Serve as Deacon at Funerals	0
Serve as Deacon at Baptisms	0

Administrative Acts:

Meetings Attended	23
Continuing Education	

Churchwide Involvement:

- At the request of Augsburg Fortress, our Lutheran Publisher, Writing and preparing to lead a workshop on Birth to Three Ministry for their Faith Formation Clinics to be held in Gettysburg on Saturday, April 25th.

Name: Marsha Roscoe

Dates: April 15 – May 17

Highlights and Concerns:

- New Members Received in May; a wonderful sign that Zion continues to thrive and grow in numbers.
- VBS is ramping up; leaders taking strong accountability.
- Switching curriculum for the children’s SCS classes. Remaining with lectionary-based program but now utilizing the curriculum offered by our Lutheran publisher Augsburg Fortress.
- Preparing to work on an education plan for 2009-2010.

Sick Days Taken: Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Pastoral Contacts:

Hospital Calls	2
Home Calls	1
Office Appts.	12

Deacon Acts:

Teaching	4 (Adults, Confirmation)
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Preach	2
Weddings rehearsals	1
Weddings (as coordinator)	1 (Stank/Bonawitz)
Serve as Deacon at Funerals	2
Serve as Deacon at Baptisms	1

Administrative Acts:

Meetings Attended	21
Continuing Education	

Churchwide Involvement:

On Saturday, April 25th, led a workshop on Faith Formation at Gettysburg Seminary

Lay Visitor's Report: No report

Youth Report: No report

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Hartman of the Finance Committee reported that giving for April was about \$38,000, with year- to-date giving at around \$137,000. This is nearly \$14,000 behind for the year. Attendance and per person giving are also down. Easter giving alone was down \$3,500 from 2008. Rental income was \$9,600. Ministry to others is over by \$5,000. The deficit is about \$8,900, but with Preschool money yet to come in should bring us about even.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance:

A written report dated April 2009 was submitted by Rich Weiss and Nancy Hartman. No Council action was required.

Evangelism:

No report was given

Personnel:

Lynn Danilowicz mentioned getting a Personnel Manual in place to set mileage, job descriptions, leave policies, and just generally putting things in order for staff. No council action was required.

Mutual Ministry:

Dave Sonner said they met with Personnel Committee to decide what actions to work on. They also met with Pastor Swan and Pastor McKee. According to Pastor McKee it is the church's responsibility to pay the Pastor's full medical package, not just to pay the Pastor's full medical package, not just half as previously decided. There was discussion as to whether or not this was accurate. It was decided to go ahead with payment of the full, medical package. The motion to accept Pastor Swan's proposed contract was made by Chris Ehmann and seconded by Don Sheaffer. Approval was voiced to the motion.

Christian Education:

No meeting was held.

Preschool:

Bonnie Rudi reported the numbers are similar to last year – classes are full. Staffing will stay the same. No council action was required.

Property:

A written report dated May, 2009, was submitted by Charles Will. In it he stated that the yearly Chapel operation cost is \$1,849.00, there is a problem with the roof, the front wall is sinking, and street crossing is not done at the corner. Also discussed was the use of CFL bulbs for the church, additional damage to the bell tower being discovered, a special meeting with Council to explain the damage, and additional cost, new air conditioning unit in the church office, and a hot water issue in the kitchen. No council action was required.

Social Ministry:

A letter from Pastor Jody Silliker of Christ Lutheran was read. It requested the use of our Church van to take some inner city youth to the Atlantic shore for a day in August. Chris Ehmann made a motion to approve the use of the van if liability issues are not a problem. It was seconded by Don Sheaffer and was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Partners With Christ:

Don Sheaffer reported that some new items for the Medical Outreach are being added to the list and will be posted. No council action was required.

Stewardship:

No meeting was held but Chris Ehmann noted that a speaker from Thrivent will be coming to Zion on June 11 to give a seminar on financial issues. No council action was required.

Worship and Music:

No report was given.

Activities:

There was no report given.

Strategic Properties Committee:

A written report was submitted following up on the Congregation's approval vote on March 1st to sell the property at 105 W. Main Street. The SPC sought appraisals for both properties owned on Main Street so as to be able to set an asking price for them. A solid plan has to be set to handle the middle service. There will be a discussion of what to do at the middle service to get opinions from the people who attend them.

Old Business:

- The audit was done by Lynn Knepp and John Long.
- Policy Manuals were given to Council Members who needed them.

New Business:

- New Council Members received their committee assignments.
- A proposal for a improved Communication Plan as presented to Council by Deacon Roscoe:

Proposal For Improved Communications

Given that this communications plan was presented in the fall, I think it is important that we not abandon the concepts yet. I suggest we re-introduce it in the following ways:

1. Send a one-time letter to the entire congregation informing them on the new communications plan. This letter would explain the changes and the INCREASED opportunities for information (weekly versus monthly, webside, etc.)
 2. In this letter, I would provide a response card for the households that wish to receive the printed announcements every other week (I am hoping we could obtain a volunteer to do this).
 3. Resume putting printed weekly announcements in the narthex and request the Home Communion Teams take copies of the bulletin to the homebound (this item is new).
 4. Remind the committees of their opportunities to use the communications center for sign-ups and empower them to make more leadership of their announcements on the website and during worship's opening announcements.
- The Devotion Schedule for the coming year was circulated among Council Members so they could sign up for a turn.

Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn was made by Don Sheaffer and seconded by Lori Beaver. It was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned by 9:15PM.

Council then stood and prayed together the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Good, Secretary