

First Trinity Lutheran Church Council
MINUTES
March 2, 2010
7-9 p.m. Church Parlor

Barbara Eiden-Molinaro, President
Greg Nelson, Vice President
Pastor Tom Knoll
Walt Frucht, Financial Secretary
Pastor Wendy Moen
Ed Stock, Minister of Facilities
John Priebe, Co-minister of Missions
Steve Brodd, Director of Music

Ken Forde, Minister of Mutual Care

Absent:
Kimberly Orr, Minister of Education
Jim Hunter, Treasurer
Chris Latta, Minister of Financial Resources
Ruth Worman, Co-Minister of Ministries

1 – Opening Prayer, Devotions and Sharing: Barbara Eiden Molinaro

- How to discern God's will in our work.

2 – Approval of Minutes from January 5 meeting: Chris Orvin

- Approved by consensus.

3 – Pastors' Reports: Tom and Wendy

Pastor Tom:

- Trip to El Salvador: Eleven people went. Returned Sunday night. Built half of a house. Went to Bishop Gomez's church (spokesperson for Catholic and Lutheran churches).
- Leases to First Church and St Matthew's are signed (one more year for both of them). First Church may not move until November (construction has been slow).
- New people are joining the church and new member classes are starting.
- Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday - 12:15 and 7:30 services.

Pastor Wendy

- Lifeline needs guest presiders for its Sing Praise service on Saturdays.
- Saturday April 2 – organizing a Lifeline luncheon for participants and FT members at the Channel Inn in SW.
- Wise Women retreat is on March 26. Wendy can't be there.
- Wendy hopes to do a renewal retreat (March 31 to April 3 in Richmond) as part of her continuing education.
- Laura White needs someone to sit with her on Monday. Bonnie Priebe will volunteer.
- Looking for delegates for Synod Assembly on May 6 and 7. Sara and Adriano may do it.

4 – Financial Report: Greg Nelson

- Report was produced by Jim, who is out. This is the year-end report for FY 2010.
- In the end: in the black by \$10 K.
- Member giving: \$295 K (same amount for the last five years – an accomplishment considering mix of givers has changed). This is \$24 K below the budget level, which drove the mid-summer adjustment. Good we did that ahead of time.

- Expenses: most lines are what we expected. Most reflect the budget adjustments.
 - Question on Custodial Services: is this number appropriate? The number was too high in the budget. Part of it included the money for Ralph (which was not included on this line). Bonus would be in that line.
- Need to clean up some categories, like combining two lines for TLC.
- Jim will produce a balance sheet for all the accounts (cash, Memorial Fund, Powell Fund) for end of calendar year and fiscal year.

5 – Update on 2010-11 Strategic Initiatives: Lead Champions

- Stewardship Education (Tom):
 - Capital Campaign. Jacob and Greg and Tom made a committee. They want to expand to about 8 people or so and will interview four consultants. They are:
 - ELCA Stewardship Office
 - [James D Klote and Associates](#) would have someone in the congregation full time for a time. Claim to be able to raise 4 times the annual giving of the congregation (\$1.2 million).
 - [Horizons](#),
 - Colleague of Jacob who has worked with him.
 - They are not certain we'd hire one of these.
 - The goal is to complete the campaign in 2011. We're off to a slow start since it's already March. Expect to be in full swing by the fall. Plan will be in place by June congregational meeting.
- Creation Care (Chris):
 - Need to do a Temple Talk on creation care.
 - May include a map with colored pushpins on how people get to church, in order to generate interest and encourage Metro, carpooling, etc.
- Dashboard (Greg):
 - See handout.
 - Questions to consider: Is what we can measure easily really what we want to measure? What could measure our pastors' activity? Member visits?
 - Need to measure what we can control. Should be able to know if going up or down is good or bad (what direction to move it). More shut-ins not necessarily a good thing (varies by month).
 - Or how many people did we invite to worship?
 - Want the percent of engaged members to go up. Worship assistants, choir, etc.
 - Can't really include Lifeline? Need to measure their activity somehow.
- Replacement Piano (Steve):
 - No point in buying until First Church leaves. Not looking now. Need money for the next step.
- Maintenance Committee (Barbara, Greg):
 - Ed gave Barb and Greg a "job description" and two years of his reported tasks. Determined:
 - Things Ed should keep doing (Costco runs and insurance issues).
 - Things a Minister of Facilities would do: another category.
 - Things that we really need help on, with help of a committee.
 - Things that staff need to do.

- Ed will do one more year, but we will need a deputy to start in June to “break them in gently.” Would revisit job description after a year, and then recruit helpers. Ed will think about potential volunteers (need a younger person).
- Emergency Preparedness Plan (Kent):
 - Four phases: planning, implementation, exercise, assessment.
 - Will have more by next time.
- Financial Plan (Chris, Jim)
 - Impetus came from Capital Campaign. Neither champion present.
- Mission Focus (Ruth)
 - Not present.
 - John: the central challenge is how to get information out there on mission work.
 - The portion of our budget dedicated to missions is significantly high. We are in top 3% of congregations for giving to mission.
- Spike Property (Tom)
 - Kurt Hagland has met with J Street Properties, which has Shanska as a partner (don’t need to get a loan). Ready to talk about expansion of Justice Department. Kurt wanted them to include scenarios with and without the spike property.
 - Will get a small group of committee together to hear what they have to say.
 - Tax Sale: On March 22 FT will file at DC courthouse. After March 22, the court would notify the owner of who purchased the property. After 6 months he has another 30 days to pay (through October). The District is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We would still offer the \$1 million offer.
 - Does he really not have the \$29 K for taxes?
 - We could offer to pay off his loan? Does the lien come with the property? Does Bank of America have to enforce its lien? \$150 K loan.
 - Should our new offer be lower than \$1 million?
 - We need to revisit our strategy. Kurt needs to visit a Council meeting.
- 501 Church (Wendy)
 - Contacts: Wendy talked to 66 people outside of FT through the end of February. Haven’t done that since being here for seven years. People are really excited about 501. Need 20 contacts a week who may be interested in 501. She talks to groups and passes around referral cards. Got four referrals at last meeting: can now follow up with them. 10 referrals from 66 contacts. Four in-person meetings. One declined due to scheduling, three still waiting to schedule. Need 80 contacts a month (may be a young adult, but could be anybody who may know someone interested in this). Is that ratio good? 66 to 10? Or to 4? Would be interesting to track from month to month.
 - Meet them where they are: offer journey groups, worship previews, plus social or volunteering things.
 - Struggle to get names of people. Hard to find a place to meet on Sunday evenings. Restaurants or schools (but it costs)? Start in a firehouse?

6 – Sharing on Other Issues, Ministries: All

- Skipped

7 – Thank You and Feedback on January Congregational Assembly, Looking ahead to 4/9

- Thank you for January assembly help.
- Updates on Initiatives: we can do a more detailed discussion on some of these at the next meeting.
 - Who would want to volunteer their own initiative or someone else's to spend more time working through at our next meeting?
- Potential Topics:
 - Financial Plan: a lot of interest in working on this.
 - Spike Property. The committee is ready to report on it at any time. Could Kurt come to help us determine our negotiating strategy?
 - 501 Church – If Wendy could go first she could make it.
 - Emergency Preparedness Plan.
 - Maintenance Committee.
 - Would we need to move the date to have Life in Balance people there?
 - Barbara will send an email asking about a new meeting date and finalizing topics.

8 – Closing Prayer: Pastor Wendy