

**The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection  
Yardley, Pennsylvania  
Minutes from the Winter Congregational Meeting  
February 1, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Congregational Council President Frank Ehrenfeld III called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a quorum present. Frank stated that he had appointed Gabe Patay to serve as parliamentarian for today's meeting and that we would follow Robert's Rules of Order.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Upcoming events at LCR were announced: the Souper Bowl of Caring, the Pancake Dinner/Talent Show, and the Lenten Soup Suppers.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

1. The minutes from the June 8, 2008 Congregational Meeting were reviewed. It was noted that the correct date of the congregational meeting referred to under Old Business is February 3. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes with the correction noted.
  
2. The minutes from the February 3, 2008 Congregational Meeting were reviewed. It was noted that under New Business Item 4, it should read, "The Constitution recommends two outgoing Council members to be on the Nominating Committee." A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes with the correction noted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Re-balloting of June 8, 2008 elections
  - a. At the June 8 meeting, the congregation elected council members and the endowment committee by verbal vote, when a written vote was required. Therefore, the election was conducted again by written ballot. Berni Beury was appointed to count ballots. The slate of Congregational Council members submitted by the 2008 Nominating Committee is as follows:
    - Becky Ehrenfeld – Congregational Council Secretary
    - Mike Robey, Marie Speers, Chuck Tobias, Mike Garozzo – at large
    - Kara Mullican – Youth Representative
    - Frank Ehrenfeld III – 2<sup>nd</sup> term, Council President
    - Paul Rensner – 2<sup>nd</sup> term at largeA motion was made and seconded to approve the slate. The chair opened nominations from the floor. No nominations were received. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to close nominations from the floor. Paper ballots were distributed, collected and tallied. The motion carried.
  
  - b. The slate of Endowment Committee members submitted by the 2008 Nominating Committee is as follows:

- Jeff Mullican – Council Representative
- Edith Spalding, Kent Elwell – at large
- Chuck Tobias – Council Representative

A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate. The chair opened nominations from the floor. No nominations were received. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to close nominations from the floor. A motion was then made, seconded and unanimously approved to table this vote until the paper ballots were ready. Later in the meeting, paper ballots were distributed, collected and tallied. The motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Approve Annual Year End 2008 Reports
  - a. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the Annual Year End Committee Reports as attached.
  - b. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the Financial Secretary's Annual Year End Report. President Ehrenfeld thanked Karen Berner for her hard work.
  - c. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Annual Year End Report. President Ehrenfeld thanked John Brayshaw for his hard work.
  - d. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the Finance Committee's Annual Year End Report. President Ehrenfeld thanked Ted Ebersole and the committee for their hard work.
2. The council approved slate for the 2009 Nominating Committee was presented, consisting of Diane Casey, John Brayshaw, Dave Fitchett, Ronnie Gropper, and Christie Paton. Christie Paton's name was withdrawn due to a misunderstanding. An additional committee member was needed. The chair opened nominations from the floor. Mary Hammer was nominated and accepted. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to close nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate. Paper ballots were distributed, collected and tallied. The motion carried.
3. Update Congregation on Building Expansion Project
 

Walt Reller provided an update of the Building Expansion Project, noting that the neighbors have appealed the ruling of the Court of Common Pleas, which had ruled against their objections to our building project. He stated that we could expect a decision from the Commonwealth Court on this matter in September or October. It is possible that we would then be required to go before the zoning planning committee, but it is unlikely that this would be required.

Howard Spencer asked for clarification as to what the neighbors' objections are. Walt stated that their argument is that the Religious Freedom Act was applied to us without us

having requested it. Our position is that we already have a variance for a church in an R2 zoned area, and we shouldn't need another one.

At this point, the Endowment Committee vote was conducted, as reported under Old Business above. Afterwards, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to return to New Business.

4. The council approved slate for the 2009 SEPA Synod Assembly Representatives was presented, consisting of Clyde Beury, Barbara Reynolds, and Kara Mullican. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate. The chair opened nominations from the floor. No nominations were received. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to close nominations from the floor. Paper ballots were distributed, collected and tallied. The motion carried.

5. Approve 2009 Budget

Frank presented the proposed budget in a PowerPoint presentation, which went through the budget process, historical financial trends at LCR, the pros and cons of balancing a budget, missions and ministry at LCR, and Discernment and Direction for our congregation.

As outlined in the Year-End Finance Committee report, Ted presented some important details of the proposed 2009 budget:

- The budgets for all ministries have been pared down to “bare bones”
- Long overdue 2.9% staff salary increases were included
- Benevolence has been kept steady at more than a congregational tithe
- The budget proposes a \$14,000 deficit, which could be overcome if 100 giving units gave \$3/week extra.

Frank led the congregation in prayer.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2009 budget as presented. The chair then called for any discussion. Barb Spencer inquired as to why there was a significant increase in expenditures in 2009. Ted explained that it was due to expenses associated with the Tanzania trip; however, these expenses have been offset by budgeted income for the trip. Barb also asked if we have considered using Capital Campaign Funds to pay off our mortgage and expenses. Discussion ensued. Sandy Mullican raised the point that if we run a \$14,000 deficit, we will deplete our cash reserves and dip into the “Major Repair Reserves”. Chuck Tobias asked if, with the Capital Campaign ending at the end of 2009, we could expect a marked increase in giving to the operating budget in 2010. Diane Casey asked if what has been pledged to the Capital Campaign is enough to pay for Phase I. The answer given was yes. She also wanted to re-iterate the fact that if 100 giving units gave \$3/week extra, we could overcome the deficit. Audrey Tobias pointed out that giving in January has been low. Lois Lohse called for more financial information to be presented to the congregation on a more frequent basis. The finance committee and council pledged to improve the flow of financial communication presented to the congregation throughout the year.

The vote was held by a show of hands. 70 ayes, 1 nay, 5 abstentions. The vote carried and the 2009 Budget was approved as presented.

Barb Spencer made the following motion: "I move that the finance committee and church council explore paying off the current mortgage with capital campaign funds, the amount to be repaid to the capital campaign as a budget item, and that a recommendation be made to the congregation before the next congregational meeting." The motion was seconded. Several people commented on the pros and cons of the motion. The vote was held by a show of hands. 33 ayes, 37 nays – the vote did not carry. However, it was decided that due to the closeness of the vote, council will look into this option and formulate a recommendation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Ehrenfeld  
April 15, 2009