

**The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Yardley, Pennsylvania
Minutes from the Spring Congregational Meeting
June 7, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER:

Congregational Council President Frank Ehrenfeld III called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. with a quorum present. Frank stated that in accordance with our constitution, he would not be appointing a parliamentarian for this meeting. Frank led the congregation in devotions.

APPROVE MINUTES

The minutes from the February 1, 2009 Congregational Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Nominating Committee was recognized for their work in finding candidates.
2. Elections for Congregational Council – The following slate was presented by the Nominating Committee and affirmed by council:
 - a. Wayne Hall – Vice President
 - b. Chuck Radvan
 - c. Gabe Patay
 - d. Mark Stuckley

A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to close nominations from the floor. Paper ballots were distributed, collected and tallied. The slate for Congregational Council was approved.

3. Elections for Congregational Treasurer – John Brayshaw was thanked for his years of service as Treasurer. The Nominating Committee was unable to find a qualified candidate for the position of Treasurer. Marian Robey was nominated from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to close nominations from the floor. Paper ballots were distributed, collected and tallied. Marian Robey was approved as Treasurer.

4. Elections for Endowment Committee – The following slate was presented by the Nominating Committee and affirmed by council:
 - a. _____ – Representative from council
 - b. Chuck Tobias – Representative from Council
 - c. Edith Spalding
 - d. Kent Elwell

A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate. Frank read the constitutional policy regarding the presence of a council representative on this committee. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to close nominations from the floor. It was noted that the newly elected congregational council members have not had time to consider accepting this role. Frank noted that council can appoint the council representative at a later date. Paper ballots were distributed, collected and tallied. The slate for the Endowment Committee was approved.

5. Elections for Financial Secretary – The following candidate was presented by the Nominating Committee and affirmed by council:
 - a. Karen Berner

A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to close nominations from the floor. Paper ballots were distributed, collected and tallied. Karen Berner was approved as Financial Secretary.

6. Update Congregation on Building Expansion Project

Jeff Mullican provided an update of the Building Expansion Project, noting that the neighbors have dropped their appeal of the ruling of the Court of Common Pleas, which had ruled against their objections to our building project. He stated that the next step is to get approval from Lower Makefield Township Land Development for Phase I of our project. The final building permit is anticipated to be received in September or October 2009.

7. Property Committee News

Sandy Mullican from the Property Committee reported that the roof repairs have begun. The rotted soffits are being replaced and a new roof will be put on the sacristy.

8. Report on the 2009 SEPA Synod Assembly

The Assembly was attended by Clyde Beury, Barbara Reynolds, and Kara Mullican from our congregation. Clyde gave a report on the activities of the assembly, which is attached to these minutes.

9. 2009 Financial Assessment

As promised at the 2009 Winter Congregational Meeting, the congregation has been presented with updates on the financial status of LCR through Resurrection Connections and the Newsletter. The current estimates from the Finance Committee predict anywhere from a \$4,000 year-end surplus to a \$50,000 year-end deficit for 2009. Discussion ensued regarding how the congregation should proceed in light of this information. Frank stated that our three options are to continue depleting our reserves, cut staff, or continue growth giving in faith. Frank also reported that the suggestion that was made at the winter meeting regarding using excess Capital Campaign monies for operating costs was considered. However, Finance Committee concluded that we could not re-designate funds that were given towards a specific ministry.

It was discussed that a major challenge is how to communicate the financial situation to the members of the congregation who were not at the meeting. It was noted that the focus needs to remain on stewardship in an asset-based way, such as the Stewardship Committee has been doing in Resurrection Connections.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Ehrenfeld
June 23, 2009

SEPA Synod Assembly May 8-9, 2009

The SEPA Synodical Assembly of the ELCA was held at Franconia Mennonite Church on Friday and Saturday May 8th and 9th, with the theme of “God has a plan...we’re it!” This is an annual gathering of the ELCA churches in the SEPA Synod, with each congregation being allotted voting members represented by the ordained clergy of the congregation (in the case of LCR-3) and one male and one female delegate as well as, for the first time, one youth delegate and any elected Synod Council representatives. As with all assemblies we opened with worship and Holy Communion.

As part of the theme, “God has a plan...we’re it” Bishop Burkat introduced a program designed to increase communication within the SEPA Synod, modeled after the idea of Facebook. Using the acronym FACE, the program is in response to over 6000 responses to questionnaires at last fall’s local meetings. In this program **F** stands for ‘**Faith** Formation, **A** stands for Faith in **Action**, **C** for **Connections** and Communications and **E** for **Equipping** and Developing. The long term goal is to foster communication among members of the Synod and to build the faith community.

Several resolutions were presented, discussed and voted on. The first, which will involve LCR, was for the SEPA Synod to become a Book of Faith Synod, in order to explore new opportunities for engaging the Bible. The goal is to have a minimum of 75% of the congregations register and become Book of Faith congregations. The resolution passed almost unanimously. As a follow up to this, yesterday Audrey Tobias and Clyde Beury attended a training program at LTSP lead by Pastors Leah Schade and John Kerr on BOF initiative. Further training will be conducted in the various conferences of SEPA.

Another resolution was presented and passed to ask the ELCA at the national convention in August to commit appropriate resources for Lutheran Disaster Relief so it can respond to natural disasters.

Two other matters, both which sparked lengthy discussion before coming to a vote concerned asking the national meeting of the ELCA in August to allow the ordination of gay and lesbian clergy. Many speakers on both sides of the issue spoke before the resolution was approved by a narrow margin. A final matter dealt with the SEPA Synod assuming control of Redeemer Lutheran Church in East Falls. The reason for this action was poor financial management and decreasing income. There has been a lengthy history of problems with this church and the church appealed the decision of the Synod to the assembly for a fair hearing. The vote was nearly unanimous to uphold the Synod’s decision.

The big order of business was to pass a budget so that the Synod could pay bills and conduct business, a budget of 2.8 million dollars, an increase of less than \$50,000, was passed. Finally the assembly was closed with worship on Saturday afternoon.

-Clyde Beury