

**Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Yardley, Pennsylvania
Congregational Council Minutes
Meeting of December 15, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Sharon Taylor, Pastor Colleen Cox, John Brayshaw, Becky Ehrenfeld, Frank Ehrenfeld III, Jane Helms, Kara Mullican, Jeff Mullican, Paul Rensner, Kari Ries, Mike Robey, Marie Speers, Elaine Zimmerman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Garozzo, Chuck Tobias

MEMBERS OF CONGREGATION PRESENT: Diane Casey

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Frank Ehrenfeld III called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 7:00 p.m.

DEVOTIONS

Mike Robey led the council in devotions. Paul Rensner will lead devotions next month.

PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

On the Thursday prior to each monthly council meeting, committee liaisons shall provide the church office with written committee reports. Packets to each council member will be provided by packet via church mailboxes on Friday.

Treasurer's Report: Report attached. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Financial Secretary's Report: Report attached. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the Financial Secretary's Report, with the condition that the Financial Secretary clarify the last two columns of General Fund Giving.

Finance Committee: Report attached

Pastor Sharon's Report: Report attached. At Pastor Sharon's request, council affirmed by unanimous consent that the new CONNECT ministry that addresses employment concerns be overseen by Support Ministries.

Pastor Colleen's Report: Report attached

Missions Committee: Report attached

Stewardship: Report attached

Fellowship: No report

Property Committee: Report attached

Worship and Music: No report

Christian Education: Report attached

Support Ministries: No report

Grant Proposal Liaison Committee: Report attached

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 17, 2008 Monthly Council meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes.

CONGREGATION OPEN FLOOR: Diane Casey, chair of the Stewardship Committee, addressed council regarding the anticipated shortfall for 2008 and congregation pledging for 2009. She expressed concern over the fact that the financial message in Resurrection Connections has been portraying that we were on track for a \$4500 deficit, until recently when warnings of a much higher deficit have been presented. She feels that the status of the financial health of the congregation is not being adequately presented.

Regarding pledges for 2009, she noted that to date we were only behind 15 pledges from 2008. If these 15 giving units pledge at 2008 levels, that will represent an additional \$30k. She warned that if we undertake staff cuts, it would most likely be decades before LCR had an associate pastor again.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Fund 2/Fund 5 Transfer** – Ted Ebersole has completed this transfer.
- 2. Council Project Status** – Becky Ehrenfeld presented several ideas for service projects to council. She will follow up by email with more information on the Washington Crossing United Methodist Church's ministry to feed the homeless in Kensington, PA. Council has been invited to join them for their January event.
- 3. Budget 2009 Status** – The current draft of the 2009 budget is proposing a \$14,000 deficit for 2009. The deficit is due to the fact that we do not have a bequest of \$7,000 for 2009 like we did in 2008, and that pledges to date for 2009 are lower. Council discussed ways of reducing this deficit. Frank Ehrenfeld will prepare a letter to be sent to the congregation regarding the budget situation.
- 4. Building Usage Discussion** – Tabled.
- 5. Nominating Committee** – A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve Dave Fitchett, Ronnie Gropper, John Brayshaw, Diane Casey, and Christie Paton as the slate of candidates to be elected to the 2009 Nominating Committee.
- 6. Audit Committee** – The audit committee has been appointed and will consist of Kent Elwell, Bob Davis, Nellie Plummer, and Delane Branson.
- 7. SEPA Synod Assembly** – A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve Clyde Beury, Barbara Reynolds, and Kara Mullican as the slate of candidates to be elected to the 2009 Synod Assembly.
- 8. Winter Congregational Meeting Agenda** – See attached. The agenda will be mailed out to the congregation at least 4 weeks prior to February 1, 2009.
- 9. Staff Gifts Year-end 2008** – Was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. LCR Announcements and Counter Sign Up** – The schedule is already filled out for the next month.

2. **MOCS** – The importance of the MOCS program was discussed, as well as the need for Council to reinforce adherence to the program. We need to make sure that there are always two MOCS trained adults present during youth programs and activities. Chris. Ed. has overseen the program - Mike Robey will communicate to them the importance of adhering to the program objectives and ensuring that compliance is achieved.
3. **Committee Chairs/Liaisons Conversation** – Pastor Taylor will be conducting a visioning session on January 5, 2009 for ministry chairs, council, and liaisons to help our ministries create a vision and goals for 2009. This will be followed up by a session on All Committee Night in February.
4. **Discretionary Spending** – Pastor Taylor brought up a question regarding a non-member who has been contributing money to Pastor Taylor’s discretionary fund, for the intended use of being given to a needy family. The question was how to properly account for this money for budgeting purposes. Per Finance Committee’s guidelines, anything less than \$500 and/or with its own source of income does not need to be accounted for in the books. It was agreed that this circumstance falls into that category. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to affirm that this non-member contribution be given directly to a needy family by Pastor Taylor.
5. **Annual Reports Due** – Committee Liaisons were advised to remind their committees that Annual Reports are due by the end of the year.

PRAYER REQUESTS & ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed with prayer at approx. 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Ehrenfeld
January 11, 2009