

**Lutheran Church of the Resurrection  
Yardley, Pennsylvania  
Congregational Council Minutes  
Meeting of February 16, 2009**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pastor Colleen Cox, Pastor Sharon Taylor, Jeff Mullican, Kara Mullican, Paul Rensner, Mike Robey, Jane Helms, Marie Speers, Elaine Zimmerman, Chuck Tobias, Mike Garozzo

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Frank Ehrenfeld III, Becky Ehrenfeld, John Brayshaw, Kari Ries

**MEMBERS OF CONGREGATION PRESENT:** Walt Reller

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jeff Mullican called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 7:00 p.m.

**DEVOTIONS:** Chuck Tobias led the council in devotions. Pastor Colleen 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 via church mailboxes on Friday.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report attached. Preliminary note – budget information was not available at the time of the report. A motion was made, seconded, and passes unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Report attached. A motion was made, seconded, and passes unanimously to approve the Financial Secretary's Report as presented.

**Finance Committee:** Report attached. The report notes that getting a new short-term mortgage could be expensive and difficult, or even impossible. Therefore the Finance Committee recommends not considering paying off the existing mortgage from the Building Expansion funds until it is clear that there will be the necessary amount surplus after the actual construction and repairs currently mandated by the congregation.

**Pastor Sharon's Report:** Report attached

**Pastor Colleen's Report:** Report attached. There are still some slots available for writing Lenten Devotions. All devotions are due by Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Missions Committee:** Report attached. The Missions Committee would like to pair with council for the Kensington outreach project.

**Stewardship:** Report attached. 14 members who pledged in 2008 but not in 2009 will receive a written follow up. Every member visits are continuing.

**Fellowship:** No report.

**Property Report:** The Property Committee has posted a list of tasks that need to be done on the bulletin board. Members of the congregation are asked to sign up to help with any of the tasks. A copy of the list will be sent to the church Secretary to be included in the announcements and Resurrection Connections. Several trees have been removed and the large oaks in front of the church trimmed to increase visibility of the roof. Pastor Rojas has offered to paint the large metal cross in front of the church for the cost of materials. The committee is investigating the cost to repair the curb and sidewalk along Sutphin Road. A quote for the repair to the soffits is being submitted (Thank you to Charlie May for the connection.) Kari Ries is investigating a grant from Bucks Beautiful for some landscaping work.

**Worship and Music:** A piece will be put in Resurrection Connections about starting services/arriving on time. Arise will play at the 9:30 service on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Sunday School classes will be part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday service. It has not yet been determined how the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday will be handled.

**Christian Education:** Report attached.

**Support Ministries:** No report

**Grant Proposal Liaisons:** No report

## **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the January 9, 2009 Monthly Council meeting were reviewed. It was noted that under Old Business, item 3 MOCS Report that the temple talks were not formally discussed by the Christian Ed. committee since they have not held an official meeting yet this year. This part of the minutes should be changed to reflect that. A motion was made, seconded and passes unanimously to approve the minutes with the change to item 3 under Old Business.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Building Expansion Update:** Walt Reller gave an update on the building expansion project. The Building Expansion Team has not met and no meeting is currently scheduled. We could proceed with phase 1 (First Floor) if we agreed to swap existing impervious surface such as taking out the front walkway to counterbalance the new first floor footprint. The concern is it would not appear welcoming to remove our front walkway from Makefield Road. The neighbors are still opposing the project on the grounds that the church is in a residential (R2) zone and needs a variance. Our argument is that the variance was granted for the original building and we do not need to reapply. We hope to have an answer by September or October of this year. We may need to go before the Township Planning Committee if we need a variance for extra impervious surface. ( We are asking for an additional 700 s.f.). This could take 4 or 5 months to resolve with Planning Committee. Their study would then be good for 5 years. Costs so far have been approximately \$40,000 to Lower Makefield Township, \$7,500 for the appeal to Bucks County court, \$5,000 for the appeal to Commonwealth court. If we need to go to the Planning Committee, it could be a minimum of \$6,000 in architectural fees moving forward. We need to consider if we want a performance bond once the construction begins.
- 2. Winter Congregational Meeting Follow Up:** tabled until Frank is present for feedback.
- 3. Capital Campaign Analysis:** Jeff Mullican presented a report on the current financial status of the Capital Campaign. It was noted that under the income category "All Other Income" included donations from non-members as well as interest earned. The difference in the Balance to Date and Total Budget is that the budget includes all pledged monies, Balance indicates actual money collected so far. We have approximately \$500,000 in the balance with approximately \$240,000 in approved building and repair expenditures. We still need to collect approximately \$53,000 in pledged monies to cover the approved spending. If all pledge money comes in, we should have a surplus of more than \$200,000. However, the likelihood of collecting all pledged monies is not good. 1/3 of all pledges are at least 25% behind in giving, 3 have left the congregation, 5 have not given any of the pledged money, and 7 are 1/2 (or 1 year) behind in giving. We should consider having the Capital Campaign Committee report to the congregation. Also consider if we want the Committee to contact those behind in giving, have people reaffirm pledges, and/or readjust the time frame for giving. This report will be passed to the Committee through Jeff Mullican to consider these options.
- 4. Council Project Status:** tabled until Becky is present for update.
- 5. Committee/Council Workshop:** Pastor Sharon indicated in her report that all went well with the workshops. All Committee Night may take on a more conversational format rather than each committee presenting reports as a result of the dialogue.
- 6. Strategic Planning Team:** Pastor Sharon led a discussion about the skills and attributes that would be desired of people to be on this team. (Also, traits that would not be desirable were discussed.) The ideal team should be 5-7 members of the congregation – not council members or staff. The team will be charged with considering who we are as a congregation and where we are heading. Pastor Sharon asked the council to pray to God about raising up leaders who meet the desirable characteristics (such things as open-minded, having vision, independent thinkers, outgoing, patient, creative, committed, faith-filled, respectful, etc – not a complete list). Pastor Sharon asked each member of council to bring 3 names to the next meeting that best exemplify what is needed.
- 7. Audit Update:** tabled until Frank is present.
- 8. CONNECT Appeal:** At the January council meeting it was approved for Pastor Sharon to use the Pastor's Special Fund to help a family in need in the congregation. (see #4 in New Business from Jan. meeting). Pastor Sharon withdraws the request. The Finance Committee recommends that the Pastors'

Discretionary Fund be used for this purpose if needed. A motion was made to retract the decision, seconded, and passed unanimously.

9. **Building Usage Discussion:** tabled until Frank is present for feedback on the various formats. Look at the samples provided and send any questions or suggestions to Frank before the next meeting.
10. **D&D Workshop Planning:** After discussing the success of the previous dialogue and discussion as well as reaffirming the goal to be more available to the congregation, it was decided that council members will sign up to be in fellowship hall before and/or after services for dialogue with members of the congregation. The talks will be kept informal at this point with no real agenda for discussion.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **LCR Counter and Announcement Sign-ups:** Several open dates for announcements were filled by council members.
2. **Capital Campaign Plan '09:** tabled until Frank and Barbara Spencer are present for update.
3. **Intentional Stewardship:** tabled until Frank is present to report.
4. **Other:** The Tanzania Team is requesting building usage for a fundraising event. The date is to be determined. They would like to have a movie night for adults. The movie, Fireproof, has a deeper, more mature theme and would not be suitable for children. A discussion of the movie will follow the viewing. Refreshments will be served and a free will offering will be collected. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved for building usage at a date to be determined.

The Property Committee requests permission to install a recycling bin (about 6' by 6') in the parking lot to recycle office paper. The bins used previously for recycling were often contaminated with trash and unacceptable to the trash hauler. This bin would be managed by Paper Retriever, a company specializing in paper recycling. The bin is designed to only accept paper so it will not be contaminated. This would be done at no cost to the church. A suggestion was made to contact Sabrina (grant writer) about other possibilities while Property investigates this idea further.

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Speers  
February 23, 2009