

**Lutheran Church of the Resurrection  
Yardley, Pennsylvania  
Congregational Council Minutes  
Meeting of January 19, 2009**

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

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Jeff Mullican

**MEMBERS OF CONGREGATION PRESENT:** Walt Reller

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**DEVOTIONS**

Paul Rensner led the council in devotions. Chuck Tobias 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. John Brayshaw will request that Karen Berner add more clarifications to her report regarding the different columns.

**Finance Committee:** Report attached

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

**Pastor Colleen's Report:** Report attached

**Missions Committee:** Report attached

**Stewardship:** No report

**Fellowship:** No report

**Property Committee:** No report

**Worship and Music:** No report

**Christian Education:** No report

**Support Ministries:** No report

**Grant Proposal Liaison Committee:** No report

## **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 15, 2008 Monthly Council meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes.

The minutes of the January 14, 2009 Emergency Council meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Building Expansion Report** – Walt Reller gave an update on the building expansion project status. On 12/15/08, the judge denied the neighbor's appeal of our project. The neighbors have since appealed to the Commonwealth Court. It will be 8 or 9 months until this appeal gets resolved. We could choose to proceed with Phase I, under the assumption that it is unlikely that the denial will be overturned; however, if it does get overturned, then we would be required to remove anything that was constructed. Walt also addressed the possibility (not likely) of our plans going from the Zoning Hearing Board to the LMT Planning Commission.
2. **Council Project Status** – On 1/31/09, council members will partner with Washington Crossing United Methodist Church in their ministry to feed the homeless in Kensington, PA.
3. **MOCS Report** – Chris. Ed. will hold temple talks to re-assert the principles of the MOCS program, and also to encourage volunteers to staff the nursery. It was expressed that council should make an effort to help out with the nursery.
4. **Committee/Council Workshop** Pastor Taylor reported on the first session held on 01/05 and discussed how various committees are addressing the visioning exercises. A follow-up workshop is scheduled for 7PM on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
5. **Budget 2009 Status** – Budget information sessions for the congregation have been scheduled for 1/25/09 and 1/29/09. Council will ask Stewardship if they have followed up with members of the congregation who pledged in 2008, but have not yet pledged for 2009.
6. **Building Usage Discussion** – Tabled.
7. **Winter Congregational Meeting Agenda** – Gabe Patay has agreed to serve as Parliamentarian. A rehearsal of the Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 01/31 at 9AM. Everyone was encouraged to read and understand the annual report and proposed budget to be able to answer questions or direct members to Finance workshops or council leadership. A Power Point Presentation will attempt to present all of these issues including understandable ways of breaking down the deficit into smaller (achievable) numbers that we could meet. Line by line copies of the budget will be available at the meeting. Council acknowledged the possibility of members asking if Capital Campaign monies could be transferred to our Operating Budget to help with the deficit. It was noted that this would set a bad precedent and would entitle people to ask for their money back.
8. **Nominating Committee** – It was discussed whether two outgoing members of council need to be on the nominating committee; per our Constitution, this is only a recommendation, not a requirement. Council is encouraged to work with the Committee to help them fill the ballots.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. **LCR Announcements and Counter Sign Up** – Announcements will now be read at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00, instead of 5 minutes beforehand. Hopefully this will result in more people being present for the announcements.
2. **Capital Campaign/Building Project Inc/Exp Report** – Tabled until J. Mullican present.
3. **Strategic Planning Team** – Chuck Tobias discussed the need for long-term visioning for LCR. A team could be assembled that would be responsible for engaging the congregation in the visioning process. Pastor Taylor encouraged council not to take action now, but instead to pray on this daily until our next meeting. Pastor Taylor passed out some information that would help this process. (attached).
4. **CONNECT** – The new employment support and networking ministry will be publicized with other congregations. It was noted that people who are unemployed will have immediate financial needs. The Pastor's Special Ministry Fund is available for new ministries or specific outreaches. Council was asked to affirm that members with high giving potential may give to this fund to address these immediate needs. Any donations would be considered church contributions (tax implications). Pastor will solicit counsel with members that are adept at financial matters to look at logistics. The money would be distributed directly to mortgage holders, banks, utilities, etc. and not to the congregant, with an encouragement to "Pay it Forward" once the recipient is back on their feet. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously affirming the use of Pastor's Special Ministry Fund for the purpose of soliciting and distributing funds for immediate needs.
5. **Housing Allowance** - A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve Pastor Colleen's annual housing allowance as \$8,000.
6. **2009 Educational Funds/Tanzania Expenses** - A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve that Pastor Sharon be allowed to use \$1600 from her 2009 Continuing Ed. fund to go towards the Tanzania trip and supplies.
7. **SouperBowl of Caring** – A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve Ashley Mullican asking members on February 1 to contribute \$1 towards SouperBowl of Caring. Youth will stand in the narthex with soup pots after each service to collect this offering. Thrivent will match up to \$250.
8. **National Youth Gathering** - A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to allow the youth to offer baked goods at the March 11 Lenten soup supper with a free will offering to support the trip.
9. **Memorial Tree Plaque** – Will replace the pamphlet rack in the narthex; pamphlets will be put in a kiosk.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed with prayer at approx. 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Ehrenfeld  
February 9, 2009