

## LCR Church Council meeting minutes – Oct. 19, 2009

All members, except M. Speers (excused because of illness), were present

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by F. Ehrenfeld

Devotions were led by Mike G. Chuck T. will do devotions at the Nov. meeting.

Minutes of the Sept. , 2009 meeting were approved unanimously as amended. Amendments included (1) Members excused: Paul **Rensner**, and (2) under Discussion point #2 “The Stewardship committee suggests that council increase benevolence giving to math any **pledged** increase in giving by the congregation”.

Treasurer’s report was unanimously approved. Discussion included comments on the Sept. deficit giving of \$5,000 below budget, and expenses about \$5,000 over budget (due to staff salaries and payment timing). This is a \$10,000 budget swing from 2007.

Financial secretary’s report was approved unanimously.

Other monthly reports were highlighted.

A **motion** was made to affirm the upcoming Youth Box City event and to allow the Youth to accept sponsors on Nov. 29 for this event. The motion was approved unanimously.

### Old Business discussions

1. **Bishop’s event** – Pastor Taylor, the Garrozzos, and Pastor Bruce attended this event. PS gave a review including comments about John Rollins DVD about “what stresses you out.
2. **Council Retreat** will be held on Sat. Nov. 21 at the Upper Black Eddy house. We will meet at LCR at 8:00 AM, and plan to be back no later than 3:00 PM. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.
3. **Finance Committee Update and 2010 Budget** – 2009 year-end projection of a \$9,000 deficit. 2010 salary increase proposal of 2.9% has been made. The initial draft 200 budget has a \$21,500 deficit, which would wipe out the reserves. Finance committee needs to do their job. Trends and the Stewardship plan over the next several weeks will help define the 2010 draft budget. Council liaisons were asked to make sure their committees provide budget input. Discussion on the budget issue included the following comments:
  - a. Running down or eliminating the reserves is big concern and a big risk.
  - b. The impact of the capital campaign stopping will need to be evaluated. Stewardship increases as a result of the campaign should be encouraged to continue.
  - c. A review of the communication which was provided to the congregation in June was discussed. Without increased giving, the impact of a deficit budget, including the possibility of staff cuts, was communicated.
  - d. Council members need to get the word out about increased giving, maintain total giving when capital campaign stops. Ideas for getting the word out were discussed.
4. **MOCS Status** – Task Force meets the last Wed. of Oct. A report will be made at the Nov. Council meeting.
5. **Building Expansion report** – (include text from W. Reller email)
6. **Building Requests**

- a. **Oasis** – time usage changes were requested. Oasis has asked for building uses on Sat. evening instead of Fri. This is OK except for meetings of the coffee house. In addition, Sun. times were asked to be changed to begin at 4:00 PM. They will also use the building on Christmas Day or Dec. 26. A **motion** to affirm these time changes was approved unanimously. 11:00 AM ushers will be reminded to now chain lock the back door after service. The Oasis rental agreement will be reviewed by a committee of Cheryl V., Clyde B., and FE. A **motion** was unanimously approved to have this committee, contingent upon their willingness to serve, draft a rental agreement.
  - b. **Moms & Kids Art Class** – PS to follow up with Carol V. on possible usage options for another time.
  - c. **Cub Scouts Pack 95** – Building use requests for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. of every month, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri. of some months for pack meeting were made. FE will function as the LCR liaison. A **motion** to approve these dates, contingent upon no LCR conflicts, was unanimously approved.
7. **Giving Analysis** (W. Hall) – Information on member giving still supports the statistic of 20% of the members providing 80% of the support. This is the same trend as seen in the past. Categories of giving are used for analysis and trends over time. Discussion was held on how best to educate the congregation on the financial issues. Discussion points included getting people involved. Involvement makes people feel invested, which often translates into increased giving. People need to feel good about being at LCR and being involved. Ideas around how to do this included mailing the newsletter once a quarter, simply inviting people to get involved, and using the talent lists and asset-based ministry to get people involved. Simple thank-yous to people who do get involved would be meaningful. There was a discussion about how mega-churches are so successful – people are involved. This topic could be discussed further at the retreat.
  8. **Stewardship Campaign** (G. Patay) – The campaign will focus on faith-based giving and the seriousness of the financial situation.
  9. **Diakon FHS Update** (FE) – Process has been tabled until an Oct. report is received. Meetings have been scheduled and resolution(s) are moving ahead to some end. A \$1,100 bill has been paid by donation. Additional expenses are expected.
  10. **IRS Exemption Form 5578** – does not apply to LCR as it pertains to a school exemption.
  11. **Council vacancy** – Secretary nominees to feel the vacancy were discussed. A list of 4 will be asked by FE on their willingness to serve (through June 2011). The vacancy will be voted on at the Jan. 2010 congregational meeting.
  12. **Audit Committee report** is still in need of signatures. It will be emailed to Council for review.

There was no new business.

The meeting was closed with prayer and adjourned at 8:45 PM.