

**Zion Lutheran Church
Minutes of Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 20, 2008
7:30pm**

Devotion & Refreshment Schedule

June: Doug Schmidt
July: Dave Schmidt
August: Deb Johnson
September: Jud Goerss
October: Nicky Haskins
November: Charles Krause
December: Outgoing Council Members

Scheduled Meetings

June 18
July 16
August 20
September 17
October 8
November 12
December 10

Present: Idella Ziegler, Pastor Sogge, Kirk Bengtson, Jud Goerss, Marci Wold, Pastor Hahn, Dave Schmidt, Doug Schmidt, Pastor Svoboda, Deb Johnson, Arnold Rude, Jim Larson, Charles Krause, Carol Clark, Dirk Foster, Kevin Lincicum, Beth Solberg

AGENDA

Devotions— Arnold Rude

Agenda - Idella requested that the Marysville presentation by Dick Mattson be moved to after the Chapter 15 discussion. M/S Foster/Larson. Motion passed.

Minutes of April 16, 2008 Council Meeting

Approved M/SLarson/Goerss

Chapter 15 Discussion - Pastor Hahn noted that the council had met on May 15th, 2008 with Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Craig Johnson and Glendy Ose, Assistant to the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod. The Synod representatives explained the process of Chapter 15, and the steps involved in moving forward with an action under this portion of Zion's and the ELCA's constitution. Pr Hahn noted that the intent of tonight's efforts on this topic were for information gathering and No Action would be taken. Pastor Hahn reiterated the invitation for the Pastors and Mr. Jopp to participate in a mediation process with an outside counselor. It was noted that if mediation is declined, council will reconvene to decide whether or not to proceed with Chapter 15 proceedings. Pastor Hahn then read Chapter 15 and the related sections from the ELCA Model Constitution for congregations (attached PDF). Mr. Jopp proceeded to give his iteration of events. Mrs. Jopp also spoke briefly, noting the many years they had been members, and the many ministries they had been involved with. Both Marv and Mary heard they were "not welcome here; not wanted here". Mr Jopp noted that they "have come to the conclusion that if we are not wanted or not welcome here, we will resign."

Marysville Discussion

John Peterson, Dick Mattson and several others (all descendents of Marysville/Swedeborg Church founders) wanted to know Zion council's stance on dedicating funds directly to preservation and restoration at the Marysville facility. While Zion owns it outright, there are a number of descendants who may or may not be Zion members, who are interested in being able to fund preservation of that facility – provided they are assured the efforts and resources are applied only there and do not get co-mingled with Zion's general business. There is already a separate checking account for designated funds to flow into and through for Marysville purposes.

The group noted that bricks had begun to fall off the back wall and the building was in dire need of immediate repair to prevent further deterioration. Doug and Dave Schmidt were to evaluate the building the next day. The Marysville group noted they had relatives who were standing ready to make a donation to fix the wall as long as Zion was comfortable with it. Moving forward, it was suggested that council/The Marysville group consider various mechanisms for funding ongoing needs, such as the creation of a 501(c)(3); a Marysville Preservation Society/Fund; or a sale lease/back arrangement. Issues of liability, funding, etc. need to be addressed longer term.

1st Motion to accept the report and give the Swedberg/Marysville group permission to make immediate emergency repairs to the back wall as approved by the Property Committee.

M/S: Schmidt/Krause - Carries

2nd Motion to create special offering envelopes for placement in the pews at the Marysville Church to help fund projects there.

M/S: Sogge/Soldberg - Carries

Financial Report

Jud Goerss noted that the Easter shift (to March from April) impacted the numbers and noted the worrisome trend in YTD cost vs income numbers in both funds. The General Fund is running a (27,000) deficit while the gap in the FIF2 Building Fund is (18,000). The new mortgage payment is over \$1,000/month less which helps, but the negative numbers are not good heading into summer. Finance committee will be monitoring closely. The formal request for proposal for anyone interested in conducting the audit has been announced.

Pastors Reports

Pr. Svoboda – The formal school-year program year is finished. Summer camps are ramping up and Fall planning is underway. He is working actively with staff to roll out a sustainable system for groups that will commence this fall. This would cover various worship groups, large group life (adult ed) and small group life. There are just 5 new families joining this coming Sunday. This is partly calendar driven as there is a huge group in the works for September.

Motion made to present the following new families to council for acceptance into membership:

- Monte and Amy Bofenkamp (Will and Isabella)
- Jessica and Anthony Davis/Frericks
- Matthew and Joanna Gonzales/Rampp (Christopher, Jipsy)
- Corey and Steph Lahr
- Joseph and Angela Molesky (Jordyn and Audyn)

M/S: Svoboda/Schmidt

Pastor Steve is having difficulty getting the Greeters Academy process off the ground. Tough to recruit the number of interested individuals needed to move it forward adequately. Would like to have a 5 hour training session and be able to have 35-40 willing and motivated individuals.

Pr. Sogge – School year programs finished, and gearing up for VBS and summer day camp. Staff went on a visit to Redeemer. Great time had by all.

Pr. Hahn – Passed until later in the meeting.

Committee Reports

1. Property—update on roof and parking lot projects

Have 3 bids for the roof. Still trying to get them apples-to-apples – each has different process/procedure/expense for what happens if they start and find more than they expected.

2. Transition Committee

The committee is working on two tracks: 1) Congregational profile and 2) marketing materials to profile the congregation for a potential Senior Pastor. They are getting good info from the surveys trickling in. Meeting in two weeks should help flesh out both processes. Turn in Surveys!

3. Adult Ed

The synod has launched a new program encouraging congregations to get back to the roots of our faith by reading the scriptures. A book outlining the thought process, reasoning and illustrating four different bible study examples has been issued. The adult ed committee will be studying it, as will staff. It is hoped that council will show leadership in this effort as well. Pr. Becky will be starting a study on the book of Galatians on Saturday in June using this info in the study method. In addition to focusing study efforts on a return to our core, the Adult Ed committee talked about ways to introduce and discuss various aspects of the recently released Synod draft on Human Sexuality. There is an older study on "Talking Together as Christians About Tough Social Issues" that the committee will be researching as a way to help frame the discussion on the Human Sexuality draft. There will also be assistance available from the synod to help frame and discuss issues contained in the draft. It should be noted that the draft is very broad and covers a wide variety of nuances as they relate to human sexuality. For example, one aspect that the committee spent time discussing is how to engage the broader community in conversations around keeping our young people from being exploited by various media and marketing messages, internet predators, etc.

Old Business

1. Personnel committee

Four names have been raised for possible inclusion on the personnel committee: Don Berg, Jason Chalupik, Nancy Dehmer, Wes Mahlberg. Each council member to list them in order of preference by closed ballot. Selection will be announced next month.

New Business

1. Jud proposed moving the Open Forum to the beginning of the meeting, as City Council has done successfully for years.

Much discussion, no decision or motion

2. Deb suggest we have a formal procedure for bringing issues like Mr. Jopp's to council. Also a more structured and well communicated process to enable anyone to raise and handle complex issues. Jim that the new personnel committee person develop such a grievance process – because they haven't been as involved in the issues to date.

Kevin Lincicum motioned that the new personnel committee appointee be commissioned with the task of developing a sound grievance procedure. Dirk Foster seconded. Motion carried.

Benediction

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.