

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
February 12, 2008

“As Christians based on the solid foundation of God’s Word, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to live out, lift up and share our faith in Jesus Christ – welcoming all into our family of believers.”

Attending: April Beckman, Tom Burton, Bill Cochran, Elvera Cordes, Shirley Fingerson, Kay Fockler, Michael Harvey, Pastor Jim, Judy Lee, Lynora Miller, George Poch, Pastor Rance, John Sprenger, Dick Valde, Ruth Weispfenning, Dorothy Zemke, and Anita Werle, Guest.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Bill Cochran. Elaine Gittus gave the opening devotion

Minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed.

Old Business:

Ruth Weispfenning told us the **Planning for the Future Committee** will meet again next Tuesday.

There was no progress to report from the **Expense Review Committee**.

Pastor Jim reported that the **75th Anniversary** Committee is very enthusiastic about their work in making plans for our upcoming celebrations. June 29th has been approved as the date for our Homecoming Celebration, and we will have both an 8:00 and a 10:40 service on that Sunday. They have selected some memorabilia, and are busy working on church history. Forms will be distributed in the near future to gather names and addresses of former members that you may know so that invitations can be mailed to them.

Ruth Weispfenning reported that the **Emergency Preparedness Team** has nothing further to report at this time.

Pastor Jim asked for feedback on the new booklet format that was used for the **Annual committee reports, board reports**, etc., and with the Agenda printed on the back page. There were no negative comments heard, and most present felt it was a good format and should be used in the future.

There was no other Old Business.

New Business:

Preliminary plans were made for the **Nominating Committee**, which for sure will consist of Ruth Weispfenning, Bill Cochran, a representative each from the Board of Elders, and the Education Committee, along with 3 or 4 other persons at large to be appointed by the President. Ruth expressed a goal of having some new faces present in the various Boards and Committees. If you know anyone who would be a good candidate for any of the Boards and/or Committees, please forward that name to Ruth. She would also like input from the various Boards, etc., as to which members are willing to stay on for the coming year(s).

The next New Business item was presented by Pastor Jim who brought us up to date on the **“Fan Into Flame”** program now being set forth by the President of our Synod. It is a 5-year fund-raising program for missions; we are in the 3rd year; and the Minnesota South District is involved this year. The Minnesota South goal is \$4,000,000, the total amount raised to be divided among the various levels of mission work, i.e. local, District, etc. Pastor Jim has been asked to serve as our Circuit Leader, and our congregation has been asked to serve as pilot congregation to more or less set the pace for participating in this fundraiser. A motion was made, seconded and carried that we accept the invitation to be a pilot congregation. Pastor Jim will be going for training soon, and will then have more details on the program, which will probably be introduced during the Spring of 2008.

There was no other New Business.

Officer, Board and Cabinet Reports

President's Report: Ruth Weispenning

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report Tom Burton

Tom handed out Financial Statements in a new format that he will be using in the future, and which will continue to evolve over the months ahead. The Contingency Fund was discussed, as this matter had been brought up at the last Annual Meeting. For the time being, until further study, the Undesignated Council Fund will serve as our Contingency Fund, and the total will be kept at about \$25,000, and may be a lower figure as we study the finances over the next few months. It was suggested we have a plan for use of this Fund before the next Annual Meeting.

A rather lengthy discussion followed on suggestions to clear out and combine some funds that have had no activity in quite some time, and to move these funds to a more active complementary fund. As a result of this discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried to move the balance of \$1,000 now in the Lutheran High School Fund to the Redeemer Scholarship Fund. Another motion was made, seconded and passed that we move the balance of about \$1,700 left in the Esther Hartmann Memorial Fund to the Stained Glass Window Fund because it is a memorial to our church.

Church Growth Judy Lee

Church Growth has revised the guidelines for New Member Sunday, and have sent a revised letter to new Greeters, and has revised the letter to present Greeters who are continuing, and have formulated a letter for Sponsors of new members. They are also looking at options for a supplement to the Pictorial Directory; and are considering ways of more fully utilizing the new Welcome Center, and how to better display it so that people will make more use of it.

Board of Education George Poch

The Board is now focusing on the Sunday School and its curriculum and whether or not the present curriculum is meeting the needs. They are also discussing ways of getting more kids and kids' parents involved in Sunday School, while looking at the overall Education program at Redeemer.

Board of Elders Pastor Jim (reporting in the absence of Joel Pralle who was ill)

Thursday evening services will begin on Thursday May 1 at 6:30 P.M. A representative from Gideon International will be at our church on February 23 and 24. They visit every other year. Randy Hellickson from the Board of Elders will be the representative to the Nominating Committee.

Family Life Shirley Fingerson

An Adult Bunco Night was held in January, but attendance was low. This coming Saturday, February 16, the youth are helping with the Parents' Night Out. An Easter Egg Hunt is being planned for Saturday, March 22 in the morning, and they are asking for contributions of candy, prizes or money for this event. Details are still being worked on for the Roller Skating outing which is tentatively scheduled for April 6, and they are looking for new members for the Board as all Committee members except one will be going off in the Fall.

Fund Development John Sprenger

The Committee is in the process of updating the Fund Brochures which are kept available in the Narthex, and are hoping to add some color to the brochures. As soon as they are revised and printed, they will be made available to congregational members who might be interested in this fund.

Health Cabinet

No report.

Human Concerns Kay Fockler

IHN was hosted at our church last week.

RLCW**Dorothy Zemke**

The LWML Work Day scheduled for our church on February 9 was cancelled because of severe winter weather conditions. They are coordinating the serving of the meal for the Homecoming Service on June 29, and are also going to buy dishes and silverware so that there will be servings for up to 300. The Rebecca Circle will have their Annual Craft and Bake Sale on March 8 and 9; Sarah Circle has restocked the card rack, and \$500 was donated to the Stained Glass Window Fund.

Board of Stewardship**Elvera Cordes**

The Board was very pleased with the response to the Time and Talent Survey completed last Fall and they plan to call the Chairman of each Committee/Board to find out the results. They also would like to initiate a schedule of each group active in the church to be available on a certain Sunday to explain just what their particular Board/Committee does, and thus increase interest in participating on one of them. This could be done by display, someone personally to be available, or any other means to get the word out.

One of the Christ Care groups has offered to distribute the balance of the offering envelopes that have gone unclaimed, and the balance of Pastor May's letter, our Missionary that we support, will probably be in the next Resource and could be put on the website. However, Pastor Rance cautioned about this and suggested we get permission from Pastor May before doing this because of security concerns. The organization Partners in Missions has changed their name to LINCS. It is located in the Twin Cities area, and they have a new director who has offered to have a Somali Choir come to Redeemer for a choral presentation at one of our services.

Board of Trustees**Dick Valde**

The main entryway on the parking lot itself has been quite slippery at various times this winter because of the way the water drains from the roof, etc., and he asked the cooperation of the Elders and Trustees in keeping this area well sanded. There is a pail of sand by the west entrance. The snow that is being raked off the roof this winter falls directly on the air conditioning units, and the Trustees are looking for someone to build covers to protect the A.C. units.

A problem has developed with the pews in the main sanctuary. Because the humidity seems to be so low in the church proper, some of the pews have begun to split on the ends, and will be in need of repair soon. In fact, all of the pews need to be refinished in the long-term. Trustees are also following up to get more information on the RPU rate change. Usage reports will be sent to us from RPU. We were changed to a medium demand user the beginning of 2007, which increased our rates. They are also checking into the possibility of having an energy audit in the near future.

Youth Ministry**Lynora Miller**

The youth will be doing babysitting for the Parents' Night Out this Saturday and will have about 30 children to take care of. Youth will be serving the Lenten Supper on February 27, and will be doing babysitting and taking care of snacks for the Creation Seminar at RCLS on February 29, and will also do an overnight ski trip that same day. Plans for bowling for both the junior and senior youth, and plans for the Easter Breakfast are also in the works; and they are looking to doing a servant event in March or April in Rushford, Stockton, or one of the other towns affected by the August flood.

Staff Reports**DCE Report****Michael Harvey**

Michael has had several people volunteer for the Lay Cluster group he will be meeting with relative to the KINDLE Program. The training runs 5 weeks in length, and he will continue to have ongoing groups in the future. He is also assisting the Youth Board with the progressive dinners and the upcoming ski trip and is going to bring next summer's VBS group together for a meeting very soon. SHOUT has been going very well, and they have had some good discussions on the 10 Commandments as they are studying one each meeting.

DPM Report**April Beckman**

She expressed that she was glad to be back attending our meetings and is practicing with the Instrumentalists and hopes to have them play for some Lenten and Easter Services. She also will be doing a noontime recital at the 1st Presbyterian Church on March 12 at 12:15 for a half hour and invited all who are able to attend. She has applied for

and has been accepted in the Church Music Graduate Program at Concordia Wisconsin, as they have a 4-week course each summer for 3 summers in order to earn the Graduate Degree. She has approached the Elders about being able to take the time off to attend these classes.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Jim

Pastor Jim has been working on Staff Evaluations. Pastor Rance is preaching at the Lenten Services, and Pastor Jim is doing the Saturday/Sunday services during Lent.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Rance

Pastor Rance had just returned from vacation in Michigan where he and his wife were Godparents to a new baby boy born to good friends of theirs. While there, he also taught a couple of Bible classes.

A motion was made seconded and was carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 P.M.. Pastor Rance gave the closing prayer.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2008, beginning at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Gittus, Secretary