

Church Council Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2011

In attendance: Gary Andersen, Pastor Kim Hassan, Steve Holland, June Hopkirk, Sarah Olsen, Candy Simonen, Carol Starr, Brianna Heggeseth

Absent: Ernesto Munoz, Kim Traynor

1. **Devotional** – Steve Holland led a meditation on Galatians 4 on the theme of adoption
2. **Web site** – Brianna reported on the work of the website committee which she chairs. At the committee's recommendation we have canceled our subscription to mychurchevents.com saving \$75/year. We will be adding \$100/year to the new budget to cover web hosting. Brianna showed us the newly designed website which was very impressive with drop down-menus for different topics and links to all our activities. By consensus the Council asked Brianna to start the new website as soon as possible. The Council will review it for errors and omissions and we will ask the congregation to review it as well. We all thanked Brianna heartily for her hard work and creative genius.
3. **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Kim thanked us for all we are doing. She is getting to know more people by mingling after services. She and Carol Starr visited Connie and Nancy Templis bringing one of Carol's famous apple pies which was welcome. Pastor Kim told us they are missing home cooked food and mentioned meat loaf. Candy said she would be glad to make a meat loaf to bring them in the new year.

In January Pastor Kim plans to go down the directory and make plans to meet those she does not yet know.

Worship during Advent has had a focus on baptism which will continue in Epiphany. The kids have been excited to "baptize" us and Pastor Kim is happy to see kids running up the aisle for communion.

She intends to do more long range worship planning with Carl and the Worship Committee and is talking with other area pastors to share ideas especially ways to make worship more kid friendly.

Paul has been having trouble keeping up with all the office work in his 13 hours. We need to be mindful about keeping his workload down.

4. **Minutes** - The minutes of the meeting of November 21 were approved unanimously.

5. **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Kim was absent but gave her report through Carol. We are about \$1,000 more in the hole than we had budgeted for but hoping that year-end giving will make up some of the difference.

Carol presented the budget prepared by the Finance Committee. She noted that it was very conservative in its income estimates. It was noted that insurance costs have risen remarkably. Steve said he thought it was because our liability umbrella had been raised. We requested Steve to look at bringing our insurance costs down by lowering the umbrella.

Carol will be chairing a fundraiser hoping to bring in \$2000.

Carol noted that expenses exceed income in the proposed budget by about \$36,600 with the difference being made up out of our reserves.

The Council unanimously approved submitting the budget as proposed to the general meeting.

Pastor Kim will confirm with the Children's Ministry Committee that the amount budgeted for them is adequate.

Gary was requested to try to get the tree pruning done in this budget year and he indicated he thought it could be done.

6. Christmas Plans – Pastor Kim reported that the plans for Christmas services are in place. There will be very child friendly 5 pm service Christmas Eve and a more traditional service at 9 pm. Communion will be by intinction at both services. We do not yet have ushers signed up for the late service. There will be no service on Christmas Day.

Pastor Kim noted that both Carl Bear and Paul Heggeseth will be gone for about 5 weeks around Christmas. Gretchen Kell will fill in for Carl. Paul is working to get bulletins etc. done before he leaves.

7. Council Retreat – the Council retreat will be a Saturday morning in February. Council members were asked to check their calendars.

8. Committee reports:

Adult Ed – Reflections has started up again meeting once a month on the first Thursday morning at the Dickels' home. They are reading "They Like Jesus But Not Church". P. Kim noted that this group is open to new members. It was suggested that they be mentioned in the newsletter

Adult Ed/Social Concerns – The Fair Trade programs have been well received. Future plans include a Rwanda program.

Buildings & Grounds – The furnace has been repaired at a cost of \$500 which included the regular maintenance. They will try to get the trees pruned this year.

Children's Ministry – The children are excited about the pageant.

Events – The Seminarian Dinner was well received with about 40 attending. The food was delicious and came in at around \$100, about one half what was budgeted. Sarah thought the seminarians liked it – it was good to relax during the stressful time of finals. It was noted that we have lots going on in Advent and that may have reduced the number of our members participating. For next year we will explore if there isn't another time which would be good for the seminarians and more attractive for our members.

Lefse making was a big success with about 40 people at the Hollands making Lefse.

The tree is up and decorated. Tom and Candy will undecorate it sometime between January 2 and January 4. Sam will haul the tree to the curb. Steve reminded us to save the stand!

Worship - covered earlier in meeting.

9. Other - Candy suggested we might establish a separate account for the scholarship fund so folks could contribute to scholarships for our youth to attend special retreats and camps.

10. Adjournment – we adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

NOTE: The deadline for the January Newsletter is January 2.

Submitted by Candace Simonen, Secretary