

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
September 26, 2010**

**Call to Order and Announcements**

President Bob Niedringhaus called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m., in the Parish Hall. A quorum was present. The purpose of today's meeting is to formally call Pastor Sonja Anderson as FLC's chaplain, which will be done by written ballot. Tellers will be Vice President Becky Hoversten-Mellem, Mary Streufert and Vic Krause. A second piece of business will be to decide whether to increase FLC's \$2 million current letter-of-credit to \$2.6 million. In addition, there will be brief updates on Time for Renewal Phase II, the status of both the Music Director and Youth & Family Director positions, and a financial report.

**Devotions**

Pastor Judd opened the meeting with devotions based on Luke 16:26 and referencing Lutheran baptismal promises.

**Formal Call of Pastor Sonja Anderson**

President Niedringhaus explained that Pastor Sonja Anderson has been employed as a contract employee for 13 months as FLC's chaplain. Pastor Sonja is an ordained Lutheran pastor and this call is necessary for her to retain her ordained status. This is primarily a formality because her hours and compensation will not be affected. She works 15 hours/week with increases as necessary when other pastoral coverage is needed. Motion was made and seconded to call Pastor Sonja Anderson as FLC's chaplain. President Niedringhaus asked the tellers to distribute ballots. A two-thirds majority is needed to call a pastor. There were 68 votes received: unanimous approval. Motion passed.

**Program Staff Updates**

Only 8 applications have been received for the youth director position. Pastor Larson spoke with Paul Hill, ELCA staffing and several bishops to discern their thoughts about bringing her nephew, Jonathan Larson, to FLC Interim Youth & Family Director. Ongoing recruitment continues for a permanent youth & family director. The music director search has yielded 36 applications. An audition will be held Thursday evening by one of the applicants (the second applicant was unavailable); anyone interested is invited to attend. Pastor intends to have a small group of people help with interviews, and Dan Jaeckel will sign off on whoever is offered the position.

**Finance Report**

Year-to-date through August numbers show Mission & Ministry offerings at \$479,040, which is \$37,209 behind plan; budget is at \$516,249. Overall income is at \$526,473, which is \$32,170 behind goal; budget is \$558,643. Jim attributed this to the economy, and the impact parking and construction has had on attendance. Expenses through August for salary/benefits are at \$331,377, compared to budget of \$359,307 for a total of \$27,931 underspent. While income is below plan, so are expenses. The only board over budget is Operations, which is largely attributed to increased heating costs from the steam cooperative. Jim concluded that although year-to-date figures are better than budget, FLC needs to do better with offerings next year. There were no comments or questions.

Time for Renewal finances show that Phase 1 & 2 is largely over-budget by \$314,201 due to unforeseen maintenance tasks including cleaning brick. There are no cost overruns for the organ. Pledges received to date are close to \$2 million; cash received-to-date from pledges totals \$1,254,889. The amount remaining to be raised is about \$1.9 million. The Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Planning Council have recommended approval for a motion to close the existing \$2 million line-of-credit

and create a new, increased line-of-credit (at prime rate) with National Bank of Commerce. The new line-of-credit requires that FLC take out a mortgage, which would require an appraisal and title insurance paid for by FLC. When the line-of-credit matures (January 5, 2012) FLC could take out a mortgage term loan with a rate determined by current market conditions. Members were reminded that at the Dec. 2009 congregational meeting, it was thought FLC would need a \$3 million line-of-credit. Motion was made and seconded to increase FLC's line-of-credit to \$2.6 million; passed unanimously.

### **Time for Renewal Update**

TFR chair Ted Johnson reported that construction/installation of Opus 52 is ahead of schedule, although 3,400 more pipes are yet to be installed. The gathering space is expected to be completed by early October; the Superior Street parking lot will be blacktopped next week. Sarah Marks is coordinating a young people's art exhibit; members ages 2-18 are encouraged to submit art that will be matted and framed for display in the new space. Ted recognized and thanked members of the task force for their diligent work in this project. He also thanked Glenn Peterson for his landscaping knowledge, Ann Niedringhaus for her fund-raising efforts, Miriam Sommerness for all the additional work she has done throughout the church (office, music room) and Phil Mickelson, who has served as the church agent both on TFR as well as Time to Build. Meeting attendees thanked Ted with a round of applause for his leadership on the project.

### **TFR Fund-Raising Update**

Suzanne Rauvola spoke on behalf of Ann who was sick. Pledging and gifts have passed the half-way point toward anticipated funding. Gratitude was expressed for the 166 members/families who have already pledged; 57 percent of these pledges have already been received. In addition, several in this group of 166 have increased their initial pledges or make a second separate pledge. Almost \$250,000 has been raised through the ongoing pulpit match with FLCW, one-time gifts, the April match program, pew wood item sales, the Take a Seat! campaign and other special gifts. A significant challenge remains to fund the remaining half of the project cost. Steering committee members were recognized and thanked for their involvement.

### **Closing and Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. with prayer led by Vice President Hoversten-Mellem.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Hanson  
Council Secretary