

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING  
September 23, 2010**

Members attending:

President	Bob Niedringhaus
Vice President	Becky Hoversten-Mellem
Treasurer	Jim Zastrow
Secretary	Laura Hanson
Councilors-at-Large	Char Juntunen, Tom Whittaker
Past President	Mary Streufert
Pastors	Pastor Larson, Pastor Judd
Boards	
Caring Ministries	Dick Ojakangas
Church in Society	Sheryl VanScoy
Education	George Rennan
Evangelism	Dave Walter
Global Ministries	Elaine Elness
Operations	Tim Schandel
Stewardship	Dave Lothner
Worship, Art, Music	Erna Peterson
Youth	Vic Krause
Guests	Tom Boman, Beth Holst, Ted Johnson

**Call to Order & Devotions**

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m., following a brief organ demonstration played by Dan Jaeckel. Devotions were led by Dave Walter using a reading from the book, "A Day In the Life of a Cow." He closed with prayer.

**Finance Report**

Year-to-date through August numbers show Mission & Ministry offerings at \$479,040, which is \$37,209 behind plan and slightly over 92 percent of goal. Jim attributed this to the economy, parking lot issues and ongoing TFR construction. Overall income is at \$526,473, which is \$32,170 behind goal. Expenses through August are at \$558,480, which is 93.7 percent of goal. While income is below plan, so are expenses. Most boards are within budget or under; only Operations is over, which is largely attributed to increased heating costs from the steam cooperative. Salary/benefits are below plan, primarily due to unfilled staff positions. Is steam heat still a good deal? No one has run the numbers, but much work would be required to get the boilers operating again if steam was not found to not be a cost-savings. Jim also reported that Executive Committee approved a motion to increase FLC's \$2 million unsecured letter-of-credit with National Bank of Commerce by \$600,000. NBC wants to secure it (the rate is 3.25% until Sept. 2011 when it increases to 5% variable), which requires an appraisal. The LOC will come due Dec. 31, 2012; at that time FLC will convert the LOC to a mortgage.

**Old Business**

- Tom Boman reported that the Board of Church in Society voted unanimously to sponsor Lutheran Social Service's weekly Family Support Dinners. Dinners previously were held in conjunction with Little Treasures, meeting from 5-6:30 at FLC. Both education and recreation components are included, and adult-supervised childcare. LSS would use the Parish Hall, nursery and Youth Room, but not the kitchen. BoCS sponsorship covers the facility charge for LSS. About 10-15 family units participate. Motion was made and seconded to support BoCS decision regarding sponsorship of said LSS program; passed unanimously.
- Sunday's congregational meeting will include a TFR update consisting of a fundraising report by Ann

Niedringhaus, a finance report by Jim and a construction update by Ted Johnson. A second piece of business will be to formally call Pastor Sonya Anderson, which will be done by written ballot. A call committee is not necessary because she is already on staff. This is primarily a formality (hours and compensation will not be affected) but necessary to maintain her rostered status. However, FLC will begin paying into her ELCA pension plan as a result.

- Council retreat is set for Saturday, Oct. 9 at Camp Amnicon. Plan to meet at 8 a.m., in FLC's canopied parking lot to carpool. The cost is \$20/person. Co-chairs are welcome to attend the retreat. It was clarified that both co-chairs can attend council meetings, however, only one chair can speak and vote. It is advised to have one co-chair serve as the council representative, rather than share the duty. Three boards have co-chairs: Church in Society, Global Ministry and Caring Ministries. Dave Lothner reported that Dan Badger has resigned from the Board of Stewardship and Dave will now serve as the council representative.
- Beth Holst reported that FLCW has provided a \$500 gift to enable FLC to serve Fair Trade coffee once again on Sundays. Ongoing funds will be encouraged by asking members to sponsor a Sunday coffee for \$25, providing donation cups at coffee stations and suggesting that customers who purchase Fair Trade products from FLCW consider donating a pound of coffee. Last week, donation cups yielded \$12.31. Suggestion was made to note sponsor names in the bulletin. About 600 pounds of coffee was consumed last year; Beth has asked Ellis to monitor Sunday coffee so only appropriate amounts are made.
- Beth also reported that she and co-chair Teresa Zupancich are working with older FLCW members to integrate younger women into the group. She expects to start 1-2 new circles. The first of possibly four intergenerational events will be October 1.
- Ted Johnson reported that the nursery, family bathroom outside the west transept doors and the crying room are complete. The gathering space is slated for completion by mid-October. Two islands were added to the parking lot to meet watershed code compliance. Black-topping will be done next week. Estimate of \$60,000 is needed to finish the shelled in space (currently used for storage) below the gathering area. The room is not really useful if only sheetrocked; ventilation/heat are necessary. The entire Upper Commons and stairway to lower level will be recarpeted. New carpet for the Lower Commons is not in the budget. 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. How is fundraising progressing? Ted noted fundraising will soon begin again in earnest following a summer lull. Why is the sanctuary ceiling leaking again? The construction manager believes the original problem was fixed and this is a new leak, which will be addressed tomorrow.
- Dave Walter announced there will be a meeting at 7:15 Sept. 29 in the Upper Commons to brainstorm how to effectively use the new gathering space for hospitality and make a plan.

### **Pastor's Report**

- The music director search has yielded 36 applications. A public audition will be held Thursday evening by one of the applicants. A second applicant will audition at another time. Both were recommended by John Ferguson from St. Olaf College; one is finishing a doctorate degree in organ performance. Pastor intends to have a small group of people help with interviews, and Dan Jaeckel will sign off on whoever is offered the position.
- Only 8 applications have been received for the youth director position. Pastor is thankful to have Jon Larson serving as interim. Ongoing recruitment continues for a permanent youth & family director. Pastor was encouraged to seek someone musically inclined and to be actively conscious of diversity. She intends to have a small group of people help with interviews when the time comes; council expressed concern that the permanent director be in place prior to Jon's taking a call. Suggestion was made to provide a status report at the upcoming congregational meeting and/or in the Builder to

maintain open dialogue. Significant changes have been made to the confirmation program: curriculum emphasizes the five baptismal promises, points have been eliminated and replaced by a requirement of 25 worship notes, the first Wednesday will be a family evening worship service, the fourth Wednesday will be a service project and the middle Wednesdays will be similar in format to previous years.

- Pastor Judd distributed a written report.

#### **Other concerns/questions/comments**

- Council meets November 18, which is one week earlier than normal.
- November 14 is New Member Sunday and will include a potluck with Planning Council. More information will be forthcoming.
- Vic asked for suggestions of service projects that youth could do, particularly during the Sunday School hour in the Youth Room. BOY also can make groups of youth available to help older members (especially anyone recovering from illness) with fall lawn work.
- Dick asked for explanation about a comment in the recent EC minutes to reduce custodial services. Bob noted that FLC's budget is tight, yet FLC needs to increase programming staff (e.g., Youth Director, Music Director) and has mission it wants to pursue. Pastor Larson added that FLC's budget has balanced the last 10 years primarily on staff changes; the key to change is twofold: increase the number of members and increase what each member gives. Tom explained that the context of the EC comments was about how to use staff more efficiently through flex scheduling.
- FLC's fall stewardship campaign, led by Jane Lepisto and Matt Eckman, kicks off this Sunday with guest preacher Jerry \_\_\_\_\_. Commitment Sunday is set for October 24. Pastor Larson suggested that council members complete their pledge early in the campaign to demonstrate leadership. Motion was made and seconded to encourage council to complete pledging by October 10; passed 17 in favor, 1 abstained. Suggestion was made to extend the campaign particularly to the confirmation students.
- Tim asked that boards identify any items stored in the basement and distributed an inventory list. Anything not claimed will be tossed.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Hanson  
Council Secretary