

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING  
July 22, 2010**

Members attending:

President	Bob Niedringhaus
Vice President	Becky Hoversten-Mellem
Treasurer	Jim Zastrow
Secretary	
Councilors-at-Large	Char Juntunen
Past President	Mary Streufert
Pastors	Pastor Larson, Pastor Judd
Boards	
Caring Ministries	
Church in Society	
Education	George Rennan
Evangelism	Dave Walter
Global Ministries	Elaine Elness
Operations	Tim Schandel
Stewardship	
Worship, Art, Music	Erna Peterson
Youth	Vic Krause
Guest	Brian Bich

**Call to Order & Devotions**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. Devotions were delayed until after Brian's report. George and Becky led devotions using a creation unit from the new Sunday School curriculum, which features lots of repetition and is very 'hands-on.' Students will meet in a large group for 20 minutes, then transfer to workshops that use a variety of teaching medium: art, Bible skills, cooking/science and story-telling.

**Pastor's Report**

- Council toured the new upper and lower additions; the space adjoining Promise Preschool will be unfinished and is yet unassigned. Pastor believes many groups will ask for the space. She reminded council of its responsibility as policy maker and the need to work together to decide who will occupy the space.
- FLC's current governing structure is outdated and limiting. Pastor wants to move FLC toward a nimble structure and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She is hopeful this will be a discussion topic at the fall council retreat.
- Promise Preschool had 18 children graduate this spring, resulting in a large number of fall openings. They are asking the Foundation for a grant to retain staff.
- Council should have received an e-mail regarding Little Treasure's plans to move to Lakeshore. Peg Johnson has asked to use the 4th-6th grade Sunday School space until the Lakeshore space is ready. EC will agree to the arrangement only if three conditions can be met: 1) approval of the Fire Marshall; 2) state licensure; and 3) remaining funds are raised at the July fund-raising event. LT has raised \$110,000 of \$180,000 needed; Lakeshore will not begin remodeling until all funds are secured and completion will take 2-3 months. EC will not extend LT's lease beyond August 30, 2010 unless all three conditions are met and at this point, that is unlikely. George and Erna were given the go-ahead to make plans for painting the 6<sup>th</sup> grade room and reclaim the choir room.
- Pastor is not pleased with the responses received for the youth director position. She thinks FLC may have to hire someone away from another church. Position was not advertised in the Twin Cities; pastor was encouraged to expand posting beyond synod. Duluth is a desirable residence for

- young people, especially former Duluthians who look for opportunities to return home.
- About 25 applications have been received for the music director position. Bill Beckstrand recommended FLC search for a young person who likely would have a wider music background. Whoever is selected, however, must be an accomplished organist.
- Council retreat is set for October 9 at Camp Amnicon. EC is working on the agenda. Laura noted she reserved the facility, but asked camp staff to follow-up directly with church. Bob will check with Shawn/Nancy.
- FLC will host a synod regional hearing Sept. 21 on the ELCA's proposed draft social statement on genetics. Participants will provide feedback to the ELCA task force on genetics. A forum will be held Sept. 19 in conjunction with the hearing.

### **Finance Report**

End-of-second quarter numbers show overall income about \$22,000 under budget, with Mission & Ministry offerings at \$363,000 compared to \$388,000 budgeted. Expenses are also running under budget: \$440,000 through June with \$453,000 budgeted. Adjustments were made in June for staff raises. Boards are operating close to budget. First Fruits have paid out \$80,000, which is slightly behind budget of \$84,000. The net loss through June is \$39,000.

- FLC<sup>2</sup> Update Task-force chair Brian outlined the process followed to develop the proposed youth and family vision for FLC (attached). The task force worked with Sue and Chris from Interserve Ministries to assess thoughts and gain insight from members regarding youth and family issues. The vision is not just about youth, but all ages with a focus on helping youth develop faith. The group met bi-weekly throughout the spring with an objective of how to incorporate youth and family ministry into all church life. Faith is centered at home and all people, not just parents, are instrumental in helping develop faith. The task force asked council for its help in moving the vision into action. They intend to have liaisons interact with boards and church leadership. The group will stay intact for the near future, staying flexible as ideas will change. This vision does not replace FLC's vision, but is for youth and family. Pastor Judd noted it might be worth considering to use this as FLC's vision. Pastor Larson encouraged board chairs to explore how boards might walk alongside youth in every aspect, not just in worship. She reminded chairs that youth aren't especially interested in serving on boards and attending meetings, but generally prefer hands-on work where they can be paired with adult leaders.
- BoEvangelism Website: Dave asked council to direct any technical questions about the revised website to Paula Tsufis. One new feature is an on-line calendar; if all groups keep the office informed about events/facility needs, this feature will truly facilitate planning. Another feature is the Sunday soundcast – people outside the radio area can hear the service on-line. **TFR completion & welcoming issues**: FLC needs to have a plan ready when the building project is completed. Items to consider include how the space brings people together, concert bookings, open houses, how to engage people. Although hospitality is a component of BoEvangelism, all boards and committees should be involved in this plan. Mary suggested that a draft policy be developed by a small group for council's review. Dave suggested asking 2 TFR members, 2 council members and FLC staff to brainstorm concerns and plans. Bob offered to discuss small group formation at next EC meeting and report to council. **Small Catechism**: In light of FLC<sup>2</sup> proposed vision, BoEvangelism proposes the following... "Given the emphasis by FLC on youth and family ministry and given that Martin Luther composed a Small Catechism for teaching children in the family...and realizing that educational refreshment is needed by adults...the BoEvangelism suggests that on Rally Sunday (when Sunday School and Adult classes begin) that a pocket-sized version of Luther's Small Catechism be made available and given to each family and/or adults and children in order to equip the saints." Motion was made and seconded to make the Small Catechism available to everyone who attends FLC on Rally Sunday. Discussion ensued. Cost is \$1.50/copy and item is not budgeted. Price breaks could be available. Dave will ask

board to develop a financing plan. Motion passed unanimously.

- Remember Me exhibit The LWR exhibit will be at FLC Nov. 21-29, 2010. Global ministry will work with Lynn Clark Pegg in setting up and promoting. The exhibit will be open to the public during normal church hours. It will be displayed in the Parish Hall or Lower Commons as the new Gathering Space is reserved for youth artwork. Once it is reviewed at Peace Church, FLC can discern whether anything needs to be screened.
- Cameroon Missionaries There will be a picnic following worship services Aug. 15. Council is invited to attend a breakfast Aug. 14 at Mark Knutson and Beth Storaasli's home; please RSVP if interested. Anyone who wants additional time with Dr. James & Carol Brown can schedule with Shirley Wuchter, where they will be staying.
- El Salvador Visitors The group coming from El Salvador is working on obtaining visas. The visit is planned for October.

#### **Other questions/concerns/announcements**

- Council meets September 23. Pastor Larson would like a congregational meeting scheduled in September. Two agenda items include formally calling Pastor Sonja and a TFR update.
- Pastor Judd reviewed his responsibilities and activities since May (attached).
- Robert Vokes continues to work as FLC's interim office manager. Pastor Larson is still hoping to hire someone permanently.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Hanson  
Council Secretary