

MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

On March 1, 2011, the February meeting of the Church Council was held with the following people in attendance: Rick Dillon, Dick Raffauf, Shari Weaver, Robin Barr, Gail Harker, Ron Gehr, Pastor Tim Craven, Vicar Tina Toburen, Dave Haldeman, Ryan Brubaker, Randy Brubaker, Kristi Leonhard, Nick Rampolla, and Tess Freeman.

Absent: Sam Heiser, Kelly Parrish, Carl Tobias

Council President, Rick Dillon, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

DEVOTIONS: Rick Dillon apologized to the new council members for not explaining before that if you are head usher for the previous month, you are asked to share devotions and a prayer. Since Robin was not aware of this, Gail Harker read a devotional relating to, "If God is for us, who can be against us" reminding us that with all the fighting in the world right now, God is in charge. Gail also offered a prayer.

COUNCIL MINUTES: Members of the Council reviewed the minutes of the January 4th meeting. Rick Dillon asked for any comments, questions, or corrections. Randy Brubaker made a correction to page 2 under Stewardship Committee, second paragraph; he made a motion to accept the Stewardship report, not the Vicar's report as stated in the minutes. Randy also had a correction to page 3 under New Business/Property Committee, that the property committee would like to purchase a clippings bagging system, not a new lawn mower.

Randy Brubaker made a motion to accept the minutes, Dick Raffauf seconded, and the motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Tim invited council members to attend the March 15 evening meeting of the Cocalico Area Lutheran Churches. Theda Raffauf and Shirley Sweigart are planning to attend with Pastor Tim. Dick Raffauf said he would attend as a representative from Council.

Pastor Tim also asked the Council on behalf of Nick Rampolla, to consider moving council meetings to the second Tuesday of the month so he has time to collect all the financial information from the previous month. Randy Brubaker made a motion to move council meetings to the second Tuesday of the month, Ryan Brubaker seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 12, at 7:00 PM.

Dick Raffauf made a motion to accept the Pastor's Report, Dave Haldeman seconded, and the motion carried.

VICAR'S REPORT: Vicar Tina reported that it has been a busy, but good month. She completed her mid-term report and Pastor Tim completed her 6 month evaluation for which he shared she is doing a great job. Dave Haldeman made a motion to accept the Vicar's Report, Randy Brubaker seconded, motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: February was not a good month in receipts and the checkbook balance is negative \$1900.00. FICA tax was due, a lot of money was spent on snow removal, and we had to pay a \$1600.00 elevator bill that occurs once every three years, as well as \$1500.00 for workers' compensation. March and April both have only four weeks of Sundays so it is not expected to make up any shortfall during these months. The discretionary funds for \$1700 were not paid for the month. The Vicar fund is ok, but Nick suggested not considering Ephrata rentals in the future due to the high utilities. All bills are paid relating to the sanctuary renovations and \$1784.00 remains in the fund for any future incidentals. The Finance Committee recommended reviewing the accounts in Susquehanna Bank to perhaps move the money into other funds and, thus, eliminating some accounts. Pastor Tim made a motion to move the Special Gifts & Bequest Fund into the Undesignated Memorials and consolidate into one account. Kristi Leonhard seconded this motion, but further discussion ensued on how to use this money; pay bills, organ pipes, Habitat. A new motion was made by Rick Dillon to take the \$4714.00 in the Special Gifts & Bequest Fund and disburse in the following way: \$1936.00 to clear the negative

checkbook balance, \$1236.00 to clear the negative Sound System Fund (and eliminate this account), and the remaining \$1500.00 moved to the Undesignated Memorials bringing this fund's balance to \$3800.00. The Special Gifts & Bequest Fund account would be eliminated. Randy Brubaker seconded this motion and it carried. Pastor Tim and Kristi Leonhard withdrew their earlier motions. Pastor Tim made a motion to combine the Memory Garden Fund and the Lawn Equipment Fund together, thus eliminating the Memory Garden Fund. Shari Weaver seconded the motion and it carried. Nick Rampolla suggested closing out the Alternative Service account. Pastor Tim made a motion to move the \$1165.00 from the Alternative Service account into Undesignated Memorials to be used for the pipe organ since these are both worship funds. Ryan Brubaker seconded this motion and it carried.

Nick Rampolla mentioned that he did purchase the Visa gifts cards for Joe Brubaker and Bill Nodeen, but did have to pay a fee. He mentioned this in case something similar comes up in the future, it would be better to purchase an actual vendor gift card. Rick Dillon read a thank you card from Bill Nodeen. Nick also mentioned he secured debit cards for Pastor Tim, Kelly Parrish (the church secretary), and for himself.

Nick mentioned that we will not purchase the one year CD with the \$20,000 bond money, but will keep the money liquid and accessible in the Edward Jones account to use towards repayment of the capital loan.

Dick Raffauf made the comment that it is important to keep the congregation aware of our financial situation. The Stewardship Committee will introduce this year's Lenten program to help pay the discretionary items in the budget. Nick mentioned these funds were paid in January, but recommended we hold paying February until we see the results for March. Nick stated that he feels March could be worse than February and we could be looking at a shortfall of \$4000.00 to \$5000.00 come March.

Gail Harker made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as amended, Dave Haldeman seconded, and the motion carried.

150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE REPORT: The minutes were read from the February 28 meeting. Gail Harker commented that she thought the pewter ornaments were a bit expensive and several others agreed. Rick Dillon said he would ask the committee to take another look at the ornament offering. No further action is needed.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The minutes from the February 9 meeting were reviewed. Gail Harker asked about the progress with the computer upgrade. It was reported that progress is being made and that Dave Henry has a friend that is willing to assist. Randy Brubaker made a motion to accept these minutes, Dick Raffauf seconded, motion carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: This new committee met on February 24 and their report was reviewed. Pastor Tim is happy to have this committee in place. Lynn Spotts made the suggestion of looking at moving money around to perhaps eliminate some accounts. No further action required.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: The minutes from the February 14 meeting were reviewed. No further action required.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE: The February minutes were reviewed and no further action was required.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Organ Pipe Project: There have been several donations received and funds will continue to be raised. Additional funds will be offered from closing out the alternative service account.
2. Office Opportunities: A report was provided as an update and progress is being made. Rick Dillon commented that he does not agree with the Apple computer suggestion and stated he feels it is unnecessary for our needs. A proposal is expected in 2-3 weeks. It was recommended to proceed with the second option since it was offered at no charge.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Gail Harker gave an update on the youth activities and was pleased to be at the last youth group meeting as Pastor Tim was sick. She handed out a paper listing upcoming activities and opportunities for support. Pastor Tim thanked Gail for her dedicated work with our youth.

Rick Dillon asked Gail for an update on the Youth Gathering. They currently have raised \$1,300.00 and for 9 kids and 2 chaperons, they need \$9,000.00. Registration fees are due in June for the July 2012 trip. Gail requested Council approval to put the collection jars in the back of the church during the month of July. Randy Brubaker made the motion to have the collection jars out during July, Tess Freeman seconded, the motion carried.

2. Theda Raffauf is planning a pancake breakfast for a Saturday in May to raise money for Habitat and will possibly be combined with a book sale by the youth.
3. Vicar Tina commented that due to the many burdens Council faces regarding financial issues and problem solving, she would like to make a proposal to dedicate approximately ½ hour at the beginning of the meeting, after devotions and prayer, to ask Council members to share one thing they are thankful for that happened during the last month. She feels that this positive sharing will strengthen our ministry together and give us the strength we need to deal with the other issues.

Ron Gehr made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Randy Brubaker seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Pastor Tim asked for prayers for Sam and Nancy Heiser due to the passing of Nancy's brother and then closed with a prayer and everyone prayed the Lord's Prayer together.

Respectfully submitted,

Tess Freeman
Assistant Council Secretary