

**St. John's Lutheran Church
 Congregational Council
 December 11, 2007**

Present: Amy Chance, Merritt Davis, Leslie Dunsworth, Pr. Frank Espegren, Gregory Favre, Sharon Huckfeldt, Jim Kuhl, Pr. Jose Luis la Torre, Leise Martinez, Heather Mercer, Ramona Moenter, George Niesl, Pr. Scot Sorensen

Excused: Richard Bell, Elizabeth Huber

Guests: Barry Moenter, Shirley Moss, Ivan Olson, Gwenn Raschefsky, John Schaeuble

Merritt Davis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Devotions: Led by Pr. Scot Sorensen – The True Meaning of Christmas

Item	Discussion	Action / Outcome
Minutes	Minutes from the November 13, 2007 minutes were reviewed. Motion: Approve with correction	M/ Favre; S/Moenter Motion passed
Treasurer's Report	<p>November Financial Report submitted by Treasurer Jim Kuhl:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating gain: \$12,191. This is due to a transfer of \$20,000 from Memorial Funds to offset the Health Ministry costs as approved in the 2007 budget. Without this fund transfer, a monthly operating loss of \$7,809 would be reflected (see Pr. Sorensen's report under Hispanic Ministry update). • YTD Operating Loss: \$68,917 • Expenses: \$67,547 Benevolence expense amount up due to checks reissued and paid out (previously cancelled in October 2007) • Building Fund Income: \$18,881 • Building Fund Expenses: \$361,677, of which \$354K were loan funds • Building Fund Equity: \$284K • Organ Fund balance: \$42,706 • Dedicated Accounts balance: \$466K • Operating Trust Fund: \$254K 	Report accepted

Staff Reports

Item	Discussion	Action / Outcome
<p>Pastor Sorensen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSO Parents Meeting Follow-Up: The parents' meeting held in late November to discuss the discovery of Paul Jagoda as a Registered Sex Offender (RSO) went very well. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A packet of information was distributed to parents not in attendance; 2. A number of our parents are in the process of getting fingerprinted and screened; 3. A hall monitor system staffed by screened parents is in place 4. Paul has returned to worship, always accompanied by his trained / screened escorts. • Building Update: Elevator is being installed (7.5' by 10'); the decorative wood molding is being applied in the apse ceiling & chancel; Stencil samples are being tested to assure color, pattern & proportion; and electricity will soon be turned on, followed by testing of the new HVAC system. The next tour date is schedule for the end of January to coincide with the Annual Congregational Meeting. • Hispanic Ministry: An oversight related to Pr. La Torre's salary reimbursement received from Synod was recently discovered. Upon review of the Memorandum of Understanding between Synod, churchwide and St. John's it has been determined that St. John's is responsible for a total of \$14,620 of Pr. La Torre's salary and benefits for 2007. 	<p>Report accepted</p>
<p>Pastor Espegren</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLOW: The Oktoberfest event in October and Scandinavian dinner / Santa Lucia Festival in December were successful events. • Change for St. John's Annual Youth Trip to Mexico: Proposal to go to Mexico once ever three years, alternating with two important youth gatherings – the Western States and National Youth Gatherings – to be attended on alternating years. This is a big change in tradition for St. John's, and Pr. Frank will begin communicating this to parents and other stakeholders in the near future. 	<p>Report accepted</p>

Staff Reports (continued)

Item	Discussion	Action / Outcome
Pastor la Torre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish Discipleship Classes: Latino Educational Hour is being held at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Adult studies in the Gospel of Mark, while first communion classes are being conducted in Spanish with the children. • Resolutions for Synod Assembly: Two resolutions are being drafted for submission at Synod Assembly. The final language will be brought to Council for review. • Lutheran Tamale Day: Tamales will be sold on Sunday, December 23rd. • Bilingual Posada Service: Will be held on Sunday, December 23rd during 9:15 and 11:30 services. 	Report accepted
Steven Johnson	Report submitted	Report accepted

Committee Reports

Item	Discussion	Action / Outcome
Committee Reports	No Committee reports submitted.	Action: Pr. Frank to follow up with staff liaisons to alert committee chairs to provide reports to Council.

New Business

Item	Discussion	Action / Outcome
Ministry Plan 2008	A draft of the 2008 ministry plan was reviewed.	

Unfinished Business

Item	Discussion	Action / Outcome
Audit Report	<p>Discussion held related to the Audit Committee's report, with the following motions made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motion: Do not request that Williams & Olds perform a 2008 Audit due to budgetary restraints. 2. Motion: A report from the Personnel Committee relating to the status of issues brought up in audit to be brought to Council at the February meeting. 3. Motion: Draft of revised employee handbook to be brought to Council by February. 	<p>M/Favre; S/Sorensen Motion passed</p> <p>M/Moenter; S/Favre Motion passed</p> <p>M/Moenter; S/ Martinez Motion passed</p>
Organ Subcommittee Proposal	<p>Discussion held with Organ Subcommittee members related to continuing with second phase of organ construction.</p> <p>Motion: Organ Subcommittee to proceed with feasibility study. Concurrently conduct Stages 1 & 2 [general appeal to top 10% of donors and all past donors] and eliminate the \$50K cash "condition of success." Results of feasibility study to be presented at the January 8, 2008 Council meeting.</p>	<p>M/Moenter; S/Niesl Motion passed</p>
Commissioning Mandates		<p>All commissioning mandates to be reviewed by Council at January meeting.</p>

Announcements

Come to Bethlehem Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 16 @ 5:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Mercer

Congregational Council Secretary