

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING -AUGUST 17, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Sue Koeppel, council president at 10:25 a.m.

Pastor Klatt opened the meeting with devotions from the ELCA annual report, "God's Work. Our hands".
"Thanks Be To God"

Motion made by Rick Lipka, second by Mark Koeppel to change the format of the agenda and have Jim Bammel, the building consultant give his report that was listed under Old Business, to appear first. Motion Carried.

The beginning dialog was presented by Rick Lipka, regarding the structure of the church building.

Jim Bammel gave his report beginning with the structure, roofing, masonry, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and finishes, (a copy of his detailed report showing financial figures is attached).

The following questions were asked after Jim Bammel's presentation:

Arlene Lickfeid - "how much would a new church building cost?" Two years ago it was around \$4 million.

"How much are we willing to pay?" The current breaking figure would be around \$5 million.

Sandy Haase - "Once the basic repairs are done to stabilize the walls, what would be the cost of future yearly maintenance?" Jim replied that this could be done, but had no idea as to the cost.

Evelyn Hicks - "Do all the buttresses have to be replaced?" - Yes.

Jerry Schuler asked what we have set aside in our budget for building maintenance repair now. Mike Woodard replied around \$2,000.

Connie Arnold - "do you have any suggestions what can be done now?" Jim replied that under the roofing, soffits are a major repair, and all masonry work should be done first.

Jan Forth, stated that a priority list should be put together.

Linda Altman - "What is the life time after repairs?" - about 50 - 60 years.

Mark Koeppel - "what is the time line for rebuilding?" -16-18 months.

"For reconstruction repairs?" - 4 - 6 months.

Harvey Borchert stated that "we need to decide what has to be done now and go on from there"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the August 26, 2007 congregation meeting had no additions or corrections.

Motion made by Jerry Schuler to accept as written, second by Sandy Haase. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

All reports reviewed and presented by Mike Woodard.

Total Budget and Non Budget receipts for 2008 total \$269,087 compared to \$264,545.66 with the Non-budgeted receipts typically pass-through or ins and outs. Significant items include transfers from operating savings of \$6,750 accounting for the R & R Building Fund receipts of \$15,151. which went towards successfully paying off the Cemetery Loan for the Education Building repairs in 2006/2007. Mike also commented on the success of the simply giving program, it continues to grow in number of families but also in amount.

Under the treasurer's report, the synodical commitment of \$22,500 was met.

Mike reported that we stayed pretty much to the budget. Total Budgeted and Non-Budgeted totaled \$269,929 compared to prior year of \$264,545.66.

R & R account - Brick and roof repairs in Ed. Building done and paid off cemetery loan with interest.

Pledge campaign continues, \$15,000 - \$16,000 is put in for the R & R projects.

Cornerstone Mission Fund - Balance June 30, 2008 is \$140,228.48. This shows an increase of 3.98% after credits were deducted for the year.

Mike, outlined and explained the remainder of the other church accounts, which include; Operating Savings Account, New Building Repair and Renovations account, Endowment Accounts, Perpetual Property Account, Sunday Church School and the Memorial/helping hand accounts.

Motion by Sandy Haase to accept all financial reports as written and presented, second by Frank Acker.
Motion carried.

ELECTION OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following members agreed to run, they are: Joyce Brown, Janet Render, Larry Chavanne, Mike Woodard. No nominations came from the floor; therefore Pastor Klatt made the motion for the secretary to cast one unanimous vote, for all these candidates, second by Terry Gensler. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2009

Motion made by Sue Springer, second by Jerry Schuler to elect Linda Altman, Renee Then, Ron Wirth to the nominating committee for 2009. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF CORNERSTONE MISSION FUND

Motion by Bernie Springer to elect George Kessler, and Pat Lipka for this committee, second by Jerry Schuler.
Motion carried.

TOWN MEETING

Due to the length of the presentation by Jim Bammel, and questions directed to him, this portion of the meeting was re-scheduled to take place during the potluck luncheon. No minutes are taken during this time.

2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mike Woodard presented the 2009 budget. This year there were two budgets presented budget A, and budget B. The difference between the two budgets is that budget B includes salary compensation for the treasurer of the church and a new staff position, will be created and it will be called "director of building maintenance".

Mark Koeppel made a motion, second by Len Forth to accept budget "B", which includes a salary for the treasurer and creating a staff position needed to maintain the church buildings, not to take away from the property committee. Job description for this position will be available.

Questions from the members were also addressed. Re: Youth Directors and salary.

Tim Then and Lori Olivieri have volunteered to be co-youth directors for this year. They will receive an honorarium and mileage reimbursement. The salary for the new Youth Minister will be placed in the budget for next year.

Bonnie Klatt asked if someone outside of Mike Woodard would be able to sign his check, (inasmuch as the treasurer for his own protection as well as the church) should not sign any checks to him. Mike mentioned arrangements will be made to have either the Council President, Secretary or Pastor available to sign his payroll check.

After discussion on budget "B" was complete, the motion was approved and carried.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee -correction made by Nancy Kessler regarding the report on page 52, Goals for the 2008-2009 Church year.

Motion made by Bonnie Klatt, to adopt the "Journey in Ministry" as the official record of activity for 2007- 2008, second by Bernie Springer. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS -

Constitution Revision - The members of this committee have given the church committees a chance to revise their duties. As of this congregational meeting, the revision is still pending and not complete.

Pastor Klatt made the motion and second by Mark Koeppel regarding the resolutions for the study of the church building

A copy is attached.....

Discussion followed.

Motion made by Evelyn Hicks to amend the following: Whereas the architectural firm of Fontanese-Bammel accomplished a study as directed by the congregation and discovered that the church building is in need of significant repair and maintenance. **The Council** also raises the possibility of considering a new church building and..... second by Mark Koeppel.

Arlene Lickfeld expressed her concern for an absentee ballot for this resolution inasmuch, as she like many of our members will be in Florida for the winter. The congregation is to vote on this resolution in February. Pastor and the council will look into the constitution to see what the procedure is in this matter. The resolution was presented for a vote. 56 yes votes and 1 nay. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Burning of the mortgage for the roof on the Education Building was done during worship service on Sunday, August 17th.

On September 21st the congregation will be asked to complete a U.S. Congregational Life Survey.

St. John's was selected among only a small number of ELCA congregations to participate.

The report will allow congregational leaders to identify strengths in key areas and how to build on those Strengths.

A special meeting of the congregation council will follow immediately for the purpose to elect council officers.

Motion to adjourn the meeting came at 12:20 p.m. by Carolly Huth, second by Mike Woodard.

The meeting was closed with prayers led by Pastor Klatt.

Respectfully submitted, Bernie Bartkowiak