

**First English Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting
North Site – November 24, 2009**

Present: Mike Lokensgard, Ellen Evensen, Jeff Picken, Amy Henderson, Jeff Diehl, Kathy Larson, Dong Pham, Gordy Jeppson, Dan Baumbach, Dana Olson, John Zweig, Dean Haas, and Pastor Bauer

Excused: Mark DesRochers, Steve Uslabar

Guests: Ross and Emilie Larson, Elizabeth Hensel, Terry Maves

I. Devotions

II. Approval of Minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2009 Congregation Council meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Ministry Team Reports. A motion was made and seconded to accept the request from the Congregational Growth Ministry Team for a future raffle. Motion carried. The other Ministry Team Reports were accepted as written; concerns of the Congregational Life and Outreach & Social Ministry Teams will be addressed as part of the 2010 budget process.

IV. Treasurer's Report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Support Ministry Team recommendation to borrow no more than \$75,000 from the line of credit (based on availability of the \$100,000 limit) to pay 2009 benevolence and delegate the final decision of benevolence recipient distribution to the Outreach & Social Ministry Team. Lengthy discussion followed around other options including not borrowing from the line of credit or paying the benevolence commitments (sign of fiscal responsibility); paying a portion of the 2009 benevolence pledges; or paying the 2009 pledged commitments and re-evaluating benevolence amounts in the 2010 budget. Vote: 8 approved, 3 opposed, 1 abstained. Motion carried.

V. Executive Committee Report. The Executive Committee did not meet.

VI. Pastors' Reports. Pastors submitted written reports. Pastor Bauer distributed the book, "A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation" to each council member and encouraged that it be read and then passed on to members of the call committee. Pastor Bauer also announced that both Pastors recommend that the Council consider issuing a co-terminous call when calling the next lead pastor. The Bishop would be able to help with the details.

VII. Old Business.

A. Report/Update on ongoing issues.

1. Personnel Matters. Part of the call process includes defining the leadership model needed at FELC.

2. Sexuality Resolutions. Other meetings are scheduled at both sites on December 13 to allow the discussion to continue.

B. Task Force Updates.

1. Jeff Picken and task force members presented the final version of the NS Task Force Final Report. The written report includes recommendations as well as suggestions for future Ministry Team follow-up work. A communication plan was also outlined to encourage and promote the recommendations. Jeff personally thanked all the members of the Task Force for their time and commitment to this work. Motion was made and seconded to accept the NS Task Force report. Motion carried.

C. Capital Campaign follow-up.

1. No update.

D. Council officer nominations and elections/Nominating Committee.

1. John Zweig announced that the nominating committee has been successful in recruiting many who are interested in pursuing a Council leadership role or serving as delegates at synod/conference meetings.
2. A question was raised regarding election of Council officers for next year. The Council elects its officers each year. Jeff Diehl will put together a draft of election process/procedure for discussion at the next meeting.

VIII. New Business.

- A. Review of 2009 Ministry Team results, initial 2010 Ministry Team goals. The accomplishments of the various Ministry teams were acknowledged; further discussion of 2010 goals will take place as part of the budget process.
- B. Follow up from Nov. 4th meeting with the Bishop. The Bishop facilitated an exercise where we were to identify where we wanted to see FELC in five years and then determine “obstacles” in achieving that 5 year vision. This information will be critically important for describing FELC’s mission as well as answering questions during the call process. Council members volunteered to work in small groups addressing the obstacles and providing information that can be included in a combined fact sheet. Findings will be reported at the next Council meeting on December 15th:
 - a. **Resistance to change, Triangulation, Trust** – Dan Baumbach, Mike Lokensgard, Dong Pham
 - b. **Leadership Model** – Gordy Jeppson, John Zweig, Jeff Diehl
 - c. **One way street mindset** – Dana Olson, Kathy Larson, Dean Haas
 - d. **Complexity of the two sites** - North Site Task Force report (Jeff Picken)
- C. Call Committee Meeting December 3, 2009 at 6:30 pm Downtown Adult Ed room. Bishop Justman will facilitate. Congregation is invited to attend to observe process.
- D. Annual Meeting scheduled for February 7, 2010.

E. Official Acts. A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 2009 Official Acts. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjourn: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by: Amy Henderson

Focus for October/November

- Weddings: Continue discussion with Emily Larson ie wedding protocols
- Wednesday worship: Sharing preaching/presiding duties
- Confirmation: teaching large group for 10 Commandments.
- NS worship: Accepted with regret the resignation of North Site musician, Bob Whitton.
- NS task force: Have participated in making a final document to present to the council.
- Have begun the noon study on Matthew, forming a few introductory weeks.
- Participated in the First Call Theological Conference
- Outreach & Social Ministry: Helped find volunteers for the Fill the Trailers Campaign
- Weddings

Focus for November/December

- Confirmation: Begin a series of going to different small groups in order to get to know more of the students
- NS Worship: Print copies of NS liturgy. Begin being more active in worship choices for the North Site. Will work with John Dougherty to figure out an interim solution. Will begin process through worship team to vision music possibilities.
- Outreach & Social Ministry: With the OSM team, choose an adult mission trip. Work on OSM budget. Familiarize the team with building use policies in order to better understand how to move "building use" forward.
- Wednesday Evening Worship: Be available to a youth band for helping music to continue on Wednesday evenings.

Pastor's Report for November, 2009 - Pastor Mike Dismer

November

- Advent-Christmas planning with Mary, Melissa and other staff
- small group leader for 9th grade confirmation
- Crossways outdoor ministry Futures Task Force
- Crossways outdoor ministry Congregational Relations Committee
- help organize a morning with Bishop Justman - was a valuable meeting for the staff and the bishop

December

- Continue Advent and Christmas planning
- start Lenten planning
- 9th grade confirmation small group leader
- Bishop Justman will be preaching at the downtown site on 13 December

As you meet I will be with Karen in Washington DC helping take care of our grandchildren while our daughter and husband have a short vacation.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving. Thank you for serving as leaders here at First English, and in the wider church. Pastor Mike