

**First English Lutheran Church  
Special Congregation Council Meeting  
Downtown Site – January 5, 2010**

**Present:** Mike Lokensgard, Ellen Evensen, Jeff Picken, Amy Henderson, Jeff Diehl, Gordy Jeppson, Dan Baumbach, John Zweig, Steve Uslabar, Dean Haas, Kathy Larson

**Excused:** Dong Pham, Dana Olson, Mark DesRochers

**I. Devotion**

**II. Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2009 Congregation Council meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Review of 2010 Budget.**

**Income:** It was reported that end of the year benevolence base was \$973,912 as compared to budgeted \$1,120,000. Since 2010 pledges are down \$100,000, the benevolence base projected for 2010 budget is a conservative estimate of \$965,000. For 2010 Echoes net income has been included as a revenue source. Other Program income (line 10) needs to be confirmed. There was discussion about the capital appeal balance in the Trust and how it could be incorporated into the annual budget.

**Expenses:** Ministry teams were very careful about crafting 2010 expenses and the work is very much appreciated. After reviewing, the following changes were made to the budget draft:

A motion was made and seconded to limit interns to 5 for 2010, eliminate the request for a year round intern position and set up metrics to build intern program back up in the future. (Lines 69 and 85). Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to designate the first \$10,000 of Echoes profit to Outreach & Social Ministry Team's Expense budget (line 20) for grants which would be over and above the benevolence percentage set by the Council for outreach. The balance of Echoes profit would be treated in the same manner as Echoes income is treated currently – i.e. as general FELC revenue. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to set 2010 benevolence giving rate at 8% of the benevolence base. 1 opposed. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to include ¼ of Senior Pastor's salary in 2010 budget. This would assume a start date of Oct. 1. Motion carried.

Other items discussed relating to the 2010 budget:

Capital appeal income as well as the mortgage expense need to be reported in the annual budget.

A task force should be formed to help create guidelines to support youth trips and provide financial solvency.

A part time bookkeeper position would be important (i) for internal control purposes (Jenell handled deposits as part of her job), (ii) to help record youth fees and fundraisers, and (iii) to have up-to-date balances and reports for various church funds..

In the Support Ministry Team budget, line 77 and line 79 will be adjusted due to reduced spending plans.

Currently staff salaries are included in the 2010 budget with no increase from 2009. Staff benefits will be evaluated for possible cost savings for 2010.

**IV. Annual Meeting Prep.** Did not discuss.

**Next Council Meeting:** Thursday, January 14, 2010.

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

Submitted by: Amy Henderson