

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

March 25, 2010

In Attendance:

√ Pastor Paul Bulgerin	√ Dave Polka	√ Melanie Arndt
√ Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen	√ Sue Bremer	√ Jon Eifert
√ Ruth Schmidt	√ Lisa Bernd	√ Scott Donovan
√ Janet Sladky	√ Roger Goecks	√ Tom Fugate
√ Bob Dries	√ Sharon Gastrau	√ Jon Aspenson

The meeting began at 7:25 p.m. with President Janet Sladky presiding. Pastor Paul opened the meeting with a prayer.

DEVOTIONAL: Janet Sladky shared the devotional.

APPROVAL OF THE February 2010 MINUTES:

There was a motion to approve the corrected January minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

PASTOR PAUL'S REPORT:

Summer Worship Schedule: We will finalize our decision at the March 30 Worship Planning Team meeting, but I think what will be recommended is that we continue with two worship services through June 21 and then go to one service beginning with the outdoors worship service and church picnic on Sunday, June 27.

We will then have one worship service at 9:00 a.m. during July and August. Several of these will be special services; the VBS service at the end of July and we would also like to plan another trip to All Peoples in August.

This would add three additional Celebration services (May 23, June 13 and 20) and Vince would need to be compensated for these services.

On Graduate Sunday, which is June 6, we would have a traditional service at 8:00 a.m. and then the Graduate Celebration service at 10:30 a.m.

Request for Additional Sabbatical Support: I am officially requesting that the council consider granting me an additional \$1500 from the sabbatical fund to help with my personal expenses while on sabbatical. I have submitted a breakdown in my current sabbatical fund raising to the council president.

I am tentatively planning to begin my sabbatical after the outdoors worship on June 27 and will be gone until the beginning of September.

A motion was made by Dave Polka and was second by Scott Donovan to increase the sabbatical fund by \$1500.00.

Cluster Assembly: Grace will host the Northern Lakeshore Cluster's annual assembly on Saturday, March 27. At this assembly rostered leaders and lay voting members to this spring's synod assembly will gather for worship, select a pastor to be our cluster's voting member to the 2011 ELCA national assembly and a lay male to serve on the synod's Nominating Committee, discuss any possible resolutions coming from cluster congregations and spend some time sharing what is going on in our congregations.

Approving Ninth Grade Confirmands in April: It is the tradition at Grace to have the church council approve our ninth grade confirmands to allow them to make their affirmation of baptism promises in May. Approval is based upon participation in all classes and program, completion of the individual service project as well as sermon and worship notes. This will be done at the church council meeting in April.

Confirmation at Both Services on May 16: We have had several families who worship at the 8:00 a.m. service request that their children be allowed to make their Affirmation of Baptism promises at that service instead of at the 10:30 service. This will be done and it means that we will probably have four students make their promises at 8:00 a.m. and the rest at 10:30 a.m. We will plan the services and morning schedule appropriately to allow for the class photo and any other items that need to be taken into consideration.

PASTOR HEIDI'S REPORT:

Worship: We will be offering foot washing on Maundy Thursday again.

Education: I am back with the High Schoolers on Sunday mornings. We have been working on learning the books of the Bible and doing other Bible studies.

High School Youth Group: We continue to have good attendance and participation in the Sunday morning classes. Grace is so blessed to have so many wonderful youth. Our Lock-In and Palm Sunday brunch are this weekend. There will be about 30 kids at the lock-in. We will be doing a variety of service activities, the "duct tape Olympics" and a devotion. In May we are going to All People's and also to The Promised Land Paintball Park for their "Lutheran Day".

Vocation and Education Meeting: The ELCA is beginning a study of how it is organized. This includes the church wide offices and also the greater church (synods, regions, etc.) Other denominations have done this, too, in recent years (LCMS, Methodist). It has been a hard year economically for the ELCA but they did not come out in the red, thanks in part to many budget/staff cuts. There was a good amount of discussion on the changing religious landscape in America, how this affects the church and how we do ministry today.

Mission Trip: We had an informational meeting last weekend. One of the parents is looking into the possibility of doing additional fundraising (plant sales). We have one more opening on the trip, so I have contacted the next person on our waiting list. Dick Cooper has agreed to be a chaperone, so now all those spots are filled.

My Summer Schedule: Just so you are aware, Pastor Paul is beginning his sabbatical the day I leave for the mission trip. AIM Ruth will be here that week to fill in for any emergencies. I will be back that Friday evening. I am planning to be here for the rest of the time that Pastor Paul is gone, except for the weekend of August 15th when I will be attending a wedding out of state in which Brian is the best man. If I am going out of town for any other reason I will let the President and/or the council know, and Ruth will be here in case of an emergency.

Women's Spring Salad Supper: The group is meeting March 29th to make plans.

TNT: There is a Brewer game and tailgating planned for July. We are also planning to bring back the volleyball team, this time playing at Circle B. Last summer we missed out because the organizer lost our registration. This will be open to anyone in the congregation who wants to play- not just TNT. I am also still hoping to offer a discussion/bible study soon, and I'm looking for a space in my schedule.

Caring for Creation: We met and discussed ways we could better lift up caring for creation to the congregation. There will be more reminders and bible verses supplied in Grace Notes and the bulletin. I will be making labels for the recycling bins and educating the congregation about how/what to recycle at Grace. Mari Goecks is going to take the lead in working with a local nursery about plants to put in the circle bed- planning it so that we can still put up the nativity there.

Coaching: My coach got very sick on the day we were supposed to meet this month. Because of the busy time of year now (Lent and approaching Holy Week) we have re-scheduled for after Easter.

AIM'S REPORT:

Lent – Confirmation

Lent gives a good break to our regular schedule for Confirmation. I enjoyed the change in duties as I wrote two skits and sermons for Wednesday evening worship services. I loved working with some of our very talented students for the skits.

Lent & Easter – Children's Messages

The Extreme Love Cross door hangers has been very popular. Many members of all ages took the hangers and have been collecting the stickers.

On Easter there is usually a good turn out of children. They will each receive a small coloring mat that they can paint with water to make bright colors appear on Easter butterflies. They are reusable. I have a butterfly hand puppet that I used years ago that will help me with the message.

Sunday School

As noted in Tom's report, we are beginning a Rainbow Bell Program with our Preschool – Kindergarten Sunday School students. We are very grateful that Kelly Olson is directing this group. We also plan on using the bells for VBS and perhaps, in the future, with a group of members of varying ages.

This Sunday will be the end of the Bible Memory Station lessons on getting to know the Bible and how to use it. I have developed this unit using a video, parts from *My Bible*, Augsburg Publishing, some ideas from the *Keeping The Promise – Bible*, the celebration packet I developed and used in the past and other ideas of my own. In other Rotation Stations we are presently studying Holy Week, Easter and the remaining days Jesus was on earth, as seen through the eyes of Peter. We will watch and discuss an Easter video on the Sunday after Easter, reminding the students that every Sunday is a mini Easter celebration.

Women's Bible Brunch

The next few meeting times we are going to watch and discuss the video *The Shack & A Seeking God*. It is a presentation by the book's author.

Bishop's Installation and Cluster Gathering

It was a wonderful experience to attend and process with other rostered colleagues at the Installation Service for Bishop Jeff Barrows. It is good to have opportunities to gather as a greater church to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit and those the Spirit calls to special ministries in Christ's church.

It was also a treat to have the Bishop meet with our Northern Lakeshore Cluster gathering two days after his installation. He updated us on his plans and asked for input on our concerns.

Grandchild Due

I ask your prayers for our daughter, Carrie, as she will deliver her second baby this week. I will be going to IL on Friday and then returning for Palm Sunday. I will leave again on Monday to help care for baby's 21 month old sister and will return for service on Maundy Thursday. I will leave again after the Children's Message at the 10:30 service on Easter so I can spend the end of the day with Jim and Jenny and her two children, who will all be spending Easter with the new baby. I will take a couple more vacation days and then return to work on Thursday. Spring is a great time to celebrate new life!!!! Thanks be to God!

DIRECTOR of INVOLVEMENT:

The office is running smoothly. Ed is a wonderful addition to our staff. I will continue to do the “church side” of the office. I do the church calendar, responsibility scheduling, emails, Grace Notes, Good News, Bulletin Inserts, Sunday School, VBS, mailings, office supplies, entering the contributions, emailing responsibility reminders and more. I will also keep my DI side going strong with new member classes, orientation, pew pads, visitation letters, Time & Talents, and what ever else is needed. I feel like life is getting back to normal in the office and will keep getting better. Thank you for all of your patients with me during the interim.

I will need the final count for the Council Dinner for Sunday, March 28. If you could let me know at the Council Meeting because Jon Eifert and I are going shopping on Friday for the dinner. Thanks!

I will be taking the new council members photos Thursday night for the council wall in the hallway by the Sacristy. I will have a sign up sheet for the Maundy Thursday dinner. I will also be handing out the recipe for the Maundy Thursday Pasta Bake.

New Council Members – Do you know that you have a Council Mailbox? If you don't I will show you where it is.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES:

1. We hosted All Peoples Church for Lenten meal and worship on March 3rd and raised about \$170 (my estimate, not actual) in donations.

I am still waiting for their summer schedule to appear so we know what Wednesday in June we'll assist with their Church Family Night.

2. On March 13th, I attended (along with Janet) the Congregational Leaders Event at Our Savior's Lutheran in Milwaukee. I attended two workshops, a *Youth and Family* and *Outreach for Hope*. Youth and Family was a new experience in discussions about how to connect Christ into the lives of youth and Geri Murtaugh, Greater Milwaukee Synod Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator, encouraged use of the website www.elcaymnet.org as a resource and guide.

Pastor Earnest Tate led the next workshop, a discussion (and appeal for donations) of the Outreach for Hope organization under the umbrella of the GMS to provide financial assistance to congregations unable to support themselves. Currently, 24 churches receive funding including All Peoples Church. Each congregation must submit grant requests to an allocation committee for consideration, so funding is program restricted

CHRISTIAN CARE:

- Next committee meeting will be week of April 12th. Will send in exact date to have posted in church notes to advertise for new members.
- Lisa offered to research t-shirts and sweatshirts with a company on 11th Ave in Grafton. Will pursue a 2nd quote to compare pricing.
- Ideas for future committee projects to investigate
 - Possibility of directory with family pictures?
 - Xmas parade – handouts with Grace information attached
 - Advertising in News Graphic and free Ozaukee paper

PROPERTY:

Gall Plumbing installed the required valve on the boiler and tested it.

There is a broken toilet tank cover in the men's room which will get replaced.

Some holes in the mortar on the outside of the Dana hall were filled to prevent bees from entering the building.

Replacing Library furniture, account has \$3000. Pastor will check with the family that donated this money to make sure they are okay with it being used for this purpose.

No other property issues to report.

WORSHIP:Holy Week

Plans for the Holy Week worship services and all the Holy Week music were finalized.

Summer Worship

Discussion around adding a second summer service (celebration service) continued, leaning towards not adding two services. This discussion was continued at the mini-retreat on March 6. (see notes copied from mini-retreat minutes, below)

Additional Summer Church Services – There will continue to be two services in June until the last Sunday which is the outdoor service. July and August will remain one service and there will be special things throughout. 2011 we will re-evaluate and need to look for additional musicians and singers. Also a calendar for the Praise Team was brought up, in helping keep things organized.

Alternatives for families with young children

As an option for families with young children, a suggestion was made to create seating in the narthex behind the glass. Jon is going to take the lead on working with others to accommodate and create this space, in consideration of other interests that utilize this space as well.

Usher Training/Emergency Preparedness Plan

Jon is going to identify a team to develop and conduct usher training, to include an emergency preparedness plan (i.e. fire exits, medical emergencies, etc.).

PARISH EDUCATION:

The Parish Education Committee met on Tuesday, March 9, 2010. The following topics were discussed.

- Special Fund Usage:
 - A Bible Book Cart (\$463.00), parachute book/CD with activity ideas, and alphabet nylon beanbags (\$40.00) was purchased.
- Sunday School:
 - Pre-school and kindergarten aged children will be playing bells at the end of the first service and the start of the second service on April 25, 2010.
 - A CD and music book were purchased (\$40.00).
 - Rainbow bells were to be purchased at an estimated cost of \$10.00 per bell, with monies coming from the special fund and the Sunday School budget.
 - Good attendance recognition.
 - Once each semester (16 weeks per semester) list names of Sunday School students with good attendance on the screen prior to the church service starting.
- High School Youth Group:

- March 27/28: Lock-in to prepare for Palm Sunday Brunch. Will be distributing door hangers to promote Holy Week Services.
- March 28: Palm Sunday Brunch.
- Vacation Bible School:
 - Tina Arnold will have a display to promote VBS during Sunday School time in May.
- Library:
 - Suggestions included more book check out procedure signs and to catalog the books.
- Miscellaneous:
 - How to indicate to individuals that there is a class in the nursery between services and thus, is not a spot to leave their children.

FELLOWSHIP:

The Fellowship Committee has been very active in my absence working on the Renewal of Marriage Vows Activity.

As of 3/24/10 we have 9 couples signed up. We hope to have at least 20 couples or more. The cut off date for signing up will be April 18th.

We met last night, Jackie Dhien is working with the caterer, The menu is as follows:

Sautéed Chicken Tenderloins in herbed white wine
 Chopped Salad
 Caramelized Carrots
 Smashed Potatoes
 Rolls
 Cake

Sparkling "wine"
 Coffee/Tea/Soda

The estimated cost of the dinner is \$12.00 without the cake and "drinks". The cost per couple is \$30.00

A few members of the Youth Group will be servers.

We are hoping to have a (free) "photographer" who will take pictures of the individual couples when they arrive before the Renewal of Vows Ceremony.

Couples will be asked to bring pictures of themselves from their wedding day which will be displayed on a board.

Fellowship hall will be decorated. At this time we have 3 couples who have signed up to sponsor a table which entails, providing dishes, silverware, glasses, a tablecloth, and napkins and "decorations" for their table. The number of couples we need to sponsor tables will be determined by the number who sign up to participate in the celebration. That will also determine if we will have 6 or 8 at a table.

We will have a variety of Entertainment activities provided by Ed Borkenhagen and Dave Polka..music for dancing, "sing-alongs", etc. Prizes will be given out for some of their "activities".

Dead Sea Scrolls

We have 20 people going to the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Milwaukee Public Museum on April 24th. Cindy Witt will be collecting the money for the tickets beginning next week. Those attending will be carpooling.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

We had a very strong February. Receipts are ahead of plan and ahead of last year.

Ed Borkenhagen is doing a great job taking over the accounting functions in the church office. We have direct deposit working for payroll starting with the March payrolls.

We will need to revisit the sabbatical deposit at some point.

PERSONNEL:

Working on revising the staff handbook, they are half way through. Need Job descriptions for Pastors.

ONGOING BUSINESS:**Addition of Services for Summer****Council Dinner Details**

Stewardship Council Position: Pastor Paul has been doing the Stewardship Chair position for almost five years. We will leave as is and recruit in fall to try to find a person to assist him.

Anti-Racism: May 1st from 9am-12pm was decided on for the presentation. This is a 2 person team who will come to our church and provide dialogue and discussion to better understand racism in our world today.

Website – Using memorial monies to revamp

NEW BUSINESS:

Future Building Plans – “Vision Planning Team” Putting a committee together to revisit the building process

Report from Leadership Event – Janet and Jon enjoyed the experience.

Council bullet points in Grace Notes & Good News

Parting gifts for past council members – It was decided to do Thank you notes and dinner.

NEWS/NOTES/SHARING

CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.