

**Fairbanks Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2015**

In attendance: Ruth Carson, Pastor John Van Haneghan, Mike Cook, Tom Alton, Mark Huffington,
Vanessa Jackson, Skylar Holman, Jim Lewandoski

Absent: Jerry Zellmer

1. Devotions – Pastor John - based on Center for Healthy Churches Mission and Acts 2:42.
2. Call to Order – 7:13pm
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. added Domestic Hot Water to 7a.
 - b. Mike moved and Ruth seconds to approve agenda as amended. Motion carried.
4. Approval of August Council Meeting Minutes
 - a. Made spelling corrections to Section 7, Property Committee, Section C.
 - b. Tom moves to approve minutes as amended. Mark seconds. Motion carries.
5. Financial Report
 - a. Checking account stands around \$57,000 after processing outstanding debits.
 - b. Budget is higher than giving so far this year. Trends shows this should rebound during the fall. 2015 could be the lowest giving year unless something changes. Reasons discussed was having no pastor. The report does not reflect the giving for basement repairs which totaled \$33,000, which was completely spent.
 - c. Aurora Energy sent letter informing that heat rate would drop about 20% for the next year.
 - d. Council discussed the rate of benevolence which currently stands at 16.5%. It could be reduced to around 10%.
 - e. Jerry emailed a request to move \$10,000 from Christiansen Donation to the building fund.
 - f. Council decides on moving \$5,000 from Memorial Fund to Building Fund from the previous amount of \$15,000 donated 2 years ago. Mike moves Motion. Ruth seconds. Motion Carried.
 - g. Council decides to moves \$10,000 from Christensen Donation to Building Fund for a direct payment on mortgage principle. Mike Moves, Jim seconds. Motion Carried.
 - h. Discussion tabled for next meeting in regards to Christensen Donation. \$27,000 left, and discussion is to decide how much of that should be spent on benevolence.
6. Pastor's Report (Pastor John Van Haneghan)
 - a. Began homebound visits.
 - b. Confirmation Preparation: Webinar on Catechism to help with class.
 - c. Confirmation has been set for October 25, 2015.
 - d. Bishop Wickstrom asked Pastor John to help with Richard Mauer and his church to enter the ELCA process. This will require training from October 5-8, 2015 at Pacific Lutheran for training. Working out details for program. Lodging has been arranged at reasonable price, and air fare is covered by the program.
 - e. Pastor John has been set to write article for Newsminer in the November 9, 2015 Edition.
 - f. Working with Trish Johnston to records sermons for those that cannot be there. Looking to arrange more in the future, with recording on either CD or Cassette for those that have that system.
 - g. Synod Collegium October 12-13 in Anchorage.
7. Committee Reports -
 - a. Property Committee –
 - (1) Domestic Hot Water: there is no hot water in the church unless central heat valve is open, which causes the entire building to heat up. Proposing to look at options with plumber to create a separate system in order to create hot water year round within the building without the whole heat system on.
Vanessa Moves, Mike Seconds. Motion Carried.
 - a. Constitution Committee
 - (1) on hold.
 - b. Mutual Ministry Committee
 - (1) Kathy Alton, Bev Higdon and Kim Huffington.
 - (2) Ruth mentioned that they will meet within the month in order to create goals and what they need to work on. Council would like a representative or report to give to council.
 - c. Stewardship Committee
 - (1) Committee met, but no report. Bob Andresen is taking charge, and breaking tasks into subcommittees. Will work for report next meeting.
 - d. Education Committee
 - (1) Sunday School: Vanessa mentioned training on Saturday, September 19, 2015. Had 8 kids in two groups, K-5th grades, and Grades 6-8.
 - (2) Mike mentioned that adult group is going well.

8. Old Business
 - a. Confirmation Update: discussed during Pastor notes.
 - b. Church Directory: working to get final touches and see what is needed to help finish.
9. New Business
 - a. Fall Programs/Activities:
 - (1) Christmas Bazaar is set for the 1st Weekend in November.
 - (2) Confirmation is set for October 25, 2015, Reformation Sunday.
 - (3) Men's Breakfast, looking to be done November 21, 2015.
 - (4) Decision for no Thanksgiving Service, but look at Ecumenical Service or Dinner for that day.
 - b. Christmas Programs/Activities.
 - (1) Wednesday Advent Services with Soup and Bread.
 - (2) Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 and 11:00 PM.
 - (3) Christmas Day Service: Continue discussion.
 - (4) Children's Christmas Program was set to December 13, 2015, before all leave out for holidays.
Look to make it one service with potluck, even though there is not a 5th Sunday to that this year.
10. Good of the Order –
 - a. Start Wellness Board in the Church
 - b. Emerson will not be playing at 1st Service from 1 October through the end of the year.
 - c. Nomination Committee should start meeting and working on nominations.
11. Adjourn: Vanessa Moved; Ruth Seconded. Motion Carries. 2034
12. Closing Prayer – Pastor John.

Next meeting is set for October 20, 2015 at 7:00 pm.