

**Fairbanks Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2015**

In Attendance: Tom Alton, Pastor John Van Haneghan, Skylar Holman, Jim Lewandoski,
Vanessa Jackson, Jerry Zellmer, Mark Huffington. Ruth Carson came in later.

Guest: Arlene Orbeck

1. Devotions – by Pastor John. Scriptures read. Focus on generosity.
2. Call to Order 7:15pm.
3. Approval of Agenda: Tom moves to table until next month. Skylar seconds. Carried. Skylar moves to approve, Jim seconds, Motion carries.
4. Approval of September Council Meeting Minutes
5. Financial Report
 - a. Costs Reduction for remainder of 2015
 - i. Discussions about how many of the costs are fixed and difficult to cut without affecting services. We do put flyers in the budget, but do we really convey the reality of the budget situation.
 - ii. What are ways to increase income. Not just through the reminders of giving. Possible other things like the bazar and garage sale? Something else that is non-traditional?
 - iii. Reminder that we are a church that loves to do ministry. Perhaps we could remind folks that their dollars are investing in local, state, country, and world ministries.
 - b. Cost Reduction for 2016 Budget Discussion
 - i. See above
 - c. Bank Account Authorizations
 - i. Thank you to Jim for cleaning up what accounts exist and who has signing privileges. Many are outdated and are in conflict with our constitution. Mark and Jim may need to head to the bank together to sort it all out. An officer needs to oversee the assets.
 - d. Youth Account Spending
 - i. Arlene proposes that a scholarship be given to Mikey Jackson to help send her to Carnegie Hall because our fund has been sitting there unused. She is an active member of the church – VBS, Sunday School instructions, etc. – and Arlene feels we should support her with some of that money. Vanessa left the discussion. Discussion ensued. Jerry moves to support cause for \$1000 gift, Tom seconds. Mark discusses about relationship to church as to the reason for the gift. He feels that the gift should be used more for the good of church than through a school function. Doing this could start a precedence of giving for trips not sponsored through church. Jerry mentions that this should be looked at on a case-by-case basis, as Mikey has been one of the only active youth in the church. Tom mentions that maybe an exception should be made in this case, and in the future be looked at. Pastor John sees all views, and agrees with Mark. It could come up again for the future. He is wondering if possible to make a separate account for situations like this. Jim mentions two other past issues of giving for benevolence for emergency trips. Jerry moves to amend the amount to \$500, Tom seconds. Tom, Jerry, Jim, Skylar votes for, Mark votes against. Motion passes.
6. Pastor's Report (Pastor John)
 - a. Highlights: Confirmation Sunday this week. This year's class is very interesting and discussions are lively. Using more of the online materials for the confirmation curriculum, Here I Stand". People still come in and out of the office to chat. Contact has been made with Pastor Young about Consecration Sunday. Touched base with a couple who has lost their child. Attended TEEM program orientation. Meeting with Music and Worship Folks on Nov. 5.
 - b. Would like to consider changing the term "committee" to "ministry" Council loves the idea.

7. ~~Committee~~ Ministry Reports
 - a. Property ~~Committee~~ Ministry
 - a. Took care of a couple of nuisance tree.
 - b. Dealt with a small issue of graffiti on the back of the church with some matching paint from downstairs.
 - c. Bid is in to set up hot water to just the domestic service (showers, sinks) for \$4950 including permits and insulating pipes.
 - d. The question was raised about shades for those windows.
 - b. Constitution ~~Committee~~ Ministry – still on hold.
 - c. Mutual Ministry ~~Committee~~
 - a. Trying to modify job descriptions and look at contracts. Last contracts involved Pastor Ottum. Probably will meet quarterly – more often in its very beginning.
 - d. Stewardship ~~Committee~~ Ministry
 - a. Fall Stewardship Campaign
 - e. Education ~~Committee~~ Ministry
 - a. About 8 in younger Sunday School.
 - b. Two in the middle school program.
 - i. Would like to see about removing the garage sale items from the room. Tom will come by and move items to the next room.
 - c. Confirmation Sunday for those who finished Confirmation last May.
8. Old Business
 - a. Confirmation Update – resolved.
 - b. Church Directory – still in the works.
 - c. Fall Programs/Activities
 - d. Christmas Programs/Activities
 - a. Dec 13 for the Sunday School Program.
 - b. Choir Cantata on December 23rd.
 - c. Advent services with Holden Evening Prayer. Vanessa and Ruth already volunteer to cant. Soup and Bread beforehand.
9. New Business – See #10
10. Good of the Order
 - a. Covenant Reform Church wants to use our facilities on Sundays from 2-4. Vanessa wonders what time the other church uses the facilities. We may have to adjust times.
 - b. Next Step ministries would like to use our facilities for nine weeks next summer. They will help with VBS while they are here. They are willing to donate \$500/week. It's a go.
 - c. Sunday mornings when there are no scheduled ushers, we need to amp that program to help greet visitors. It's a ministry that needs congregants.
 - d. Dealing with the heavy, older dinner plates. It has been asked what to do with them? The West Valley JROTC would like to borrow them again (borrowed them last year too). What would we like to do with them? Tom states that there is plenty of cabinet space to store them in. We'll keep them.
 - e. Piano concerns about the use of the assorted pianos. Noted.
 - f. Thank you note from Sandy in regards to our appreciation of her.
11. Adjourn Tom moves, Vanessa seconds. 9:20pm.
12. Closing Prayer – Pastor John.