

**Fairbanks Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2016**

In attendance: Pastor John Van Haneghan, Ruth Carson, Mike Cook, Tom Alton, Mark Huffington, Skylar Holman, Jim Lewandoski, Jerry Zellmer, David Ingram, Kathy Thomas

1. Call to Order – 7:00 pm
2. Devotions – Pastor John- “Choose your Words Carefully,” article from Center for Healthy Churches
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Mark mentioned that constitution committee notes and listing is for next meeting, not for discussion.
 - b. Tom adds discussion for Easter Breakfast in new business.
 - c. Tom moves to adopt agenda as amended; Jerry seconds. Motion carried.
4. Approval of August Council Meeting Minutes
 - a. Mike notes to add Mark as being present for the meeting.
 - b. Skylar moves to approve minutes as amended. Ruth seconds. Motion carries.
5. Financial Report
 - a. Marks gives kudos to Jim for his work on the graphs showing finances. Remarks from congregation has been positive as well.
 - b. Benevolence for the synod is set at \$21,000; if it is desirable to make quarterly payments, the first should be paid around this time. The decision is whether to pay it now, or wait until after Easter. Discussion among the council decided to make the payment at that time.
 - c. The mortgage is currently under \$1 million. The building account has enough to make the mortgage payment with the amount of giving currently less than the payment amount.
 - d. Looking at the quarterly brief of finances makes it seem like we are on the right projections for the approved budget.
 - e. The switch in insurance companies has resulted in a savings of about \$7500 for the same amount of coverage as the old policy.
 - f. Pastor John was wondering about a way to track to see if folks that made pledges are keeping up with the pledges. It was thought to make a reminder for people to keep up with the pledges. Mark said he would mention something to Cathy about that.
 - g. Audit committee was discussed. This must be kept going. Current members are Bob Andresen, Cathy Birkliid, and Jane Lanford. It was discussed whether they were aware of the 3 year commitment for it, the duty they still had to do, or see if they can still do it. Per the constitution, Cathy Birkliid cannot be on it with her association with the finances. One other member has to be found to take that on the duty.
6. Pastor’s Report (Pastor John)
 - a. Appreciates the chance to work with coaching group. Currently working the bugs in the program with some of the packages.
 - b. Sunrise service is coming together. Will be on radio to discuss the week of.
 - c. Working on a 6 month review, based on the 90 day review results. Those results were positive with a few improvements.
 - d. Working on Holy Week Preparations, which is keeping things busy.
 - e. May be leader of cluster of 5 churches in the area, to include Valdez.
 - f. April will be busy. Black Rapids Retreat for Youth is going great, paid for by a grant from the ELCA. The retreat is for all youth in the cluster. The collegium will be happening during the month as well
 - g. Continuing education will be for a week at Pacific Lutheran University. It will be based on a pastor in residence, with a lot of reading and such.
 - h. Bishop Wickstrom will be working on parochial report to discuss the needs of churches in the cluster to help with growth. Looking at May 14.
 - i. There is a conflict with confirmation on May 8. Looking to move to May 15 along with graduation celebration.
 - j. Pastor John discussed a 2 fold meeting. First meeting would be a historical meeting with newspaper on the wall of each decade, and then church members discuss memories of the time period. The second meeting will be a discussion on ways to make the church better in the future.
 - k. Discussed the possibility of a single service for summer. The discussion centered on making it happen with a single service at 9:30 am. The liturgy will alternate between traditional and contemporary settings. Tom brought up the idea of having a brunch with each service, but it was also mentioned that there is a 5th Sunday in June. It was also discussed about the impact on some not wanting to have it, but the thought was that it would be received well.

Mike motioned to set the summer service scheduled to be 09:30 am, starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, alternating settings as traditional and contemporary. Jim seconds. Motion carries.

7. Committee Reports -

- a. Property Ministry – No new business. Toilet in the parsonage was replaced. Bulletin board was put up in community room. Looking at the installation of the programmable thermostats. No other business.
- b. Constitution Ministry –No changes.
- c. Mutual Ministry- Meeting on Monday at 5. Looking to reintroduce the talent board in order to bring more people to help with services. Mark discussed the need to de-conflict the existing committees with what is in the constitution. Ruth also discussed the need to figure out the role of mutual ministry. It is more to get things back on track to how to make them work, instead of making things just happen when needed.
- d. Stewardship Ministry-no report
- e. Education Ministry-This week Shawna and Lois will be shopping for VBS. The theme is set to a barn yard theme, with the dates changed. Also preparing for the youth day this Thursday.
- f. Worship and Arts Ministry: Ministry met and discussed the changes in budget with the reality of the situation. By the end of the meeting, all understood what changes had to be made. It was brought up that two worship coordinators should be identified to help with making sure servers, ushers, readers, and communion assistant are coordinated for each service. Amy and Connie was wondering about doing a music event to bring in income for the church. The music coordinators are making sacrifices on their own. They are also making their roles fit within the budget. A discussion on the music income centered on ensuring that the concert identified what the concert was for, so that it was not just done and money garnered was just up for grabs.
- g. Ministry Organization/members/Leaders: discussion for next meeting.

8. Old Business

- a. Covenant Reform Church Use: No new news.
- b. Linda Josuck's Project: Tom and Jerry headed up a group of about 5 people that went in and cleaned out the trash along with stripping out exposed old wiring and broken windows. The clean-up took about 4 days. Once the snow is gone, it is planned to go in again and do further clean up. Jerry also mentioned that several members were going to submit for Thrivent grants to help pay for some of the project.

9. New Business: None

10. Adjourn: Jerry Moved, Tom Seconded. Motion Carries. Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

11. Closing Prayer – Pastor John.

Next meeting is set for April 19 at 7:00 pm.