

**St. Michael Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes**  
**August 22, 2010**

**Present:** Angela Bostick, Bill Henry, Ralph Mellom, Billy Koch, Sandy Daughtry, Linda Harriz, Nancy Adair, Pastor Robert, Sarah Williams, Sally Sizemore, Steve Baker, Pastor Elise, Peter Strub

**Absent:** Tonjia Groblewski, Donna Weathers,

Peter opened the meeting at 1:15 pm.

**Opening Devotions** Pastor Robert led a devotion which centered on keeping the Sabbath, and the vision statement set forth by the SC Synod – missional priorities. See back of card. Pastor Robert prayed.

**Approval of Minutes:** (June 27, 2010 meeting) – minutes taken by Angela while Linda was out on medical leave. **Motion to accept, Sandy, second, Billy. Approved by acclamation.**

**Team Reports: in packets:** Finance Reports, Finance Minutes, Evangelism, New Synod Apportionment Guidelines.

Evangelism – in packets – pictorial directory – Linda noted that a sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area for Sunday lunch sign up. Cooks will not be assigned by office staff this year.

Learning – Pastor Elise is pleased to report that 22 have volunteered to teach Sunday School; Teacher orientation was held this morning. All classes have 3 teachers to team teach – taking turns and filling in as appropriate. Rally Day is next Sunday, and there will be ponies, petting zoo, lasso contest, games, food and more. Invited every child individually with bags delivered to their homes.

Pastor Robert issued a challenge for someone to take our DVD camera and film rally day. Steve Baker will do this.

**Stewardship – David Cooke** – up to 6 on committee. Warren Mowry chair- Stacy, Jackie, Jeffrey, Miki, David Cooke. Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 25.

Pastor Elise noted to the W&M people that this morning's anthem was wonderful.

**Worship & Music** – Sally Sizemore, Sandy Daughtry: St. Michael's Choir has been invited to participate with Upstate Lutheran Chorale again. Also, the choir has been invited to join the South Carolina Junior and High School division of the Association of American Choral Directors choral festival at Converse College in October. We would be singing with Westminster Presbyterian, First Baptist Greenville and Christ Church, in presenting a concert of sacred choral works to these young choral students from all over the state (October 9).

**Treasurer's Report** – Finance met on Monday, August 16. Giving still down \$17,000 from last year and projected to be at a \$35,000 deficit by year-end. We will probably not be in a position to give \$20,000 to Synod.

Finance asks the council to consider:

What budgeted expenses will not be funded in 2010? – what can we eliminate? We can eliminate Synod Apportionment \$20,000. However, we note that the SC Synod staff took one week furlough at end of July, in order to meet their budget restraints, as the Synod is not receiving funds from congregations to support their mission and ministry.

Discussion:

- St. Michael Foundation – Ida Burdick gift: it is preferred that we not use these funds to pay ordinary expenses.
- What would a one-week furlough do for St. Michael? Probably gain \$5000, but this may do more harm than good, and furloughing the staff means that we have no pastoral care or presence for a week.
- Refinance mortgage?
- David Cooke reiterates that this is an income problem, not an expense problem. Our expenses are in-line, and well-managed. When we get to December, we will still be \$30,000 lacking.
- Nancy asks - how do we make people understand how important stewardship is? Giving to the church? Giving to God?
- More discussion regarding the Burdick gift and foundation. Can we use the interest earned so far? (\$5400). No – the interest is what we will use, and never touch the principal, once the Foundation is set up.
- Has this church never been in such a situation? Yes we have; this is not uncharted waters for St. Michael. What have we done in the past? There are lots of good things happening here. New people coming through the doors every week, new people wanting to join. Stewardship will address this issue.
- A special appeal now is considered briefly, but rejected because it would conflict with upcoming stewardship campaign.
- Maybe special appeal – each pledged unit (116) – additional \$300 will make up the difference.
- Pastor Robert notes that if church is not feeling poor at this time, we aren't doing all that God wants us to be doing – we're not supposed to have anything left.
- Not ask for more, but ask those who committed to give what they committed to.
- Continue with 6 temple talks, weave in fund amounts. Use numbers and percentages.
- It is suggested that we write a letter to those who didn't pledge. Linda notes that EVERYONE received a 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter giving statement, whether they pledged or gave or didn't.

**Action Items:**

**Nominating Committee:** Peter will chair, Sally Sizemore and Nancy Adair will serve from Council. An equal number from congregation will be asked to serve on the committee.

**COUNCIL TERM STATUS**

**Completing 1<sup>st</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> term:**

Angela Bostick  
Ralph Mellom  
Sandy Daughtry

Billy Koch  
Tonjia Groblewski  
Donna Weathers

**Completing WW's term left vacant (eligible now to be elected to 2 full terms):**

Scott/David – still considering

**Finishing 1<sup>st</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> term:**

**Finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> term:**

Peter (also completed Furman Cantrell's term) - considering

Nancy – willing to serve again

Bill -- no

Steve (also completed Randy Freeman's term) – still considering

Sally -- no

**Property:** Ralph Mellom –

- o In September LMM will clean up back lot.
- o Banner poles – Ralph has heard some discussion of dislike of poles and banners. Banners not a ditch worth dying in. Carrot Top, Inc., is the banner company from which we purchased the banners. When we initially did this it was a personal project – Pastor Robert and Elaine Holland, and it was done for less than \$1000. Problem with iron poles is roughness that tears up banners. Council would like to have the banners replaced out front.

**Columbarium:** Peter Strub – information in packet. We are trying to bite off more than we can chew. Don't have enough money. Peter has contacted St. Mark's in Charlotte, where they have a very simple construction. Peter is working on this for the moment, and has discarded the criteria that this space be 100% handicapped accessible. The bigger concern is for the folks who have been waiting for columbarium space for the urns containing the cremains of their loved ones to reside. Need a place to set people free.

**Information Items:**

- Pictorial Directory – photo dates are September 15-18 – contact Barbara Henry or Carol Drake
- Synod Apportionment Information – in packet
- Sunday Lunch sign – up – see Evangelism discussion above
- Synod staff furloughs – see Finance discussion above
- Property damage from car wreck – the damage is primarily the pole for the banner near the office parking lot. See banner discussion under Property above.

Energy Assessment – we have already talked about lots of things that take away energy; sermon today gives lots of energy and encouragement. Sunday teacher orientation gives energy. This very strong Council gives energy to Pastor Robert.

Next meeting – September 19, 2010, 1:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda B. Harriz  
Council Secretary

**Upcoming Calendar Events:**

Rally Day – August 29  
Young Youth Kick-Off – August 29  
Labor Day – September 6 – Church Office Closed  
LMM – September 11 – backyard work  
LCY Kick Off – September 12  
Pictorial Directory Photography Days – September 15, 16, 17, 18