

**St. Michael Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
March 20, 2011**

Attending: Peter Stub, Nancy Adair, David Cooke, Sarah Williams, Billy Koch, Tonjia Groblewski, Andy Celinskis, Pastor Robert, Angela Bostick, Mark Haller, Jackie Frederick, Donna Weathers, Bonnie Cook.

Absent: Sandy Daughtry, Linda Harriz, Pastor Elise

Peter called meeting to order. Pastor led us in "God Sightings" to become fluent in the language of faith referring to Ephesians 1:10 "To gather up all things in Christ". Where will St Michaels be 10 years from now? We saw the group traveling to Nashville as a God sighting noted by both Tonjia and Nancy. Andy and David both shared a God sighting. Pastor led us in prayer.

Regarding minutes at Retreat. Minutes are approved but need to clarify the comments on Mutual ministry. **Motion to approve by David. Second Andy. No discussion.**

Team Progress Reports. Y & A, Social Ministry, Finance and Learning. Angela mentioned the upcoming Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday at 4:00 followed by a hot dog Supper.

Regarding Property, Andy reported we received an insurance check for \$32,000 for the new roof. The roof leak was first noticed in the robe room. Two roofers looked at the roof. One said we had hail damage. Our insurance co. said they would indeed cover the roof for hail damage. We have a signed contract with Apex roofing Co. who can begin in about a week. All roofs are to be replaced except the Mellom house. The insurance company will pay more if needed to cover additional charges. The roofer will cover our \$900 deductible. They are also to contribute 3% of the cost to the church. They are also to repair the water damaged areas in the sanctuary, robe room, room next to choir room. It will only take about 3 or 4 days to do the roofing work. The check has to be received by Thrivent in Minnesota and returned to us. The company has asked to put up some of their signs in our yard, and we have agreed. Regarding the contribution from the Roofers, Peter suggested that we use that money as designated funds for Property only. **Motion was made by Tonjia. Billy second. Vote carried unanimously.** Pastor Robert mentioned that the roofers should be sure to cover the organ pipes while they are working on the roof. Andy said he had already discussed this with the roofer. Door and lock update by Andy. Last year there was much discussion regarding who had access to our facilities and was there any control over entrance. New locks and 3 new key pads installed. One was donated by the company. Also new door installed to court yard with keypad. Several doors were changed so there are no knobs or keys on the outside. The code for the keypad is our zip code, 29605. Code can be reprogrammed. As keys have been distributed, a list has been made as to who has been given keys. Positive discussion regarding enhanced security and safety. Suggestion by Peter that perhaps the non-church groups that meet here might need to have their own codes. Billy Koch agreed. Some discussion regarding how to do that. This conversation also needs to be had with Linda. Andy to address this later.

Stewardship report by Billy. Want to be sure we don't have same problems with the stewardship campaign this year that we did last year with books not being timely moved and returned.

Social Ministry by Bonnie Cook. Want to start some kind of food presentation during offering. Also, Trudy McHale no longer wants to send out postcards weekly to the congregation to bring in food. Bonnie asked that maybe we can do that via email. Andy suggested that children in Sunday School write some of the cards. Tonjia suggested we add it to the weekly email. The McHales have been doing this for 20 years. Bonnie would like to present them with a plaque for their service. She will investigate that. Operation Inasmuch May 14 with Trinity Methodist and Augusta Heights Baptist.

Tonjia reported for Evangelism. New member dinner next Saturday, March 26 at Spaulding Farm clubhouse. Pastor wants to meet with Evangelism about annually designating certain dates for accepting new members and recognizing them. He thinks this new member process could be easier and smarter. Andy commented that he likes a more intimate approach to a new member dinner rather than in a large group of people. Council members have received an email regarding this event. Carol Cooke has been inviting the new members and their sponsors. April 9 is the Table Rock family outing. Everyone is invited. Christmas in July will be the weekend of July 22-24 with 6 classes scheduled.

Treasurer's report – Sarah Williams. Only had two months of information. We are ahead in giving compared to last year. Also, we are spending less especially due to Pastor Elise's salary not currently being paid. However, utility expenses were notably higher than budget due to the cold. Property team is doing some things to help in conserving energy. We will know more after we have finished the quarter about our financial situation.

Seminary Student - Nancy Adair. Although Rachel Harriz is graduating from Furman and has been accepted to seminary, she has decided to defer for one year. We have completed all of our paperwork and will hold it.

Synod Assembly theme is Deepening Discipleship. Assembly starts on May 19 and ends Sat. the 21st. It is to be held at the Hyatt in Greenville.

Columbarium update. Peter is setting up a meeting with Tom Ramsey with Messiah to come over to get ideas about putting the Columbarium in the Courtyard. Hopefully, this will take place in a week or two. Peter will advise council of that date if anyone wants to come to the meeting.

Action Items:

The \$113 for Council retreat is due except for the 4 new members. **Reminder to those who have not paid yet to make a check to St. Michael.**

Synod Apportionment- we have committed to about \$19,000. Do we want to send this money quarterly or annually? **A motion by Mark Haller to make quarterly payments. Second by Andy. Some discussion regarding the benefit to Synod and to St Michael. Motion was carried unanimously.**

Synod Assembly- we need 4 delegates. Jeffrey Stringer and Bub McConnell have volunteered. We still need one woman and someone under 30. Discussion regarding who that might be. Perhaps Rachel Harriz, Barbara Henry or Sarah Williams might be interested. Peter will contact them. **Motion to appoint Jeffrey and Bub by Billy. Second by Nancy. Approved unanimously.**

Endowment – Reviewed final document presented by the Finance Team. Peter led the discussion of the review. If approved today, we will be creating a bylaw which has to be approved by council and then approved by a majority vote of a called congregational meeting within 60 days. During those 60 days, we will be educating the congregation about the endowment. **Motion to accept document as is by Tonjia. Second by Andy.** Discussion regarding the endowment committee. Donna has removed her name from the committee. **Motion approved by unanimous vote.**

Old Business- none.

New Business- Size Transition. We are growing from a pastor-centered to a program-centered congregation. We need to teach the congregation about our mission and discuss where we think our congregation is going and growing, and what we can do to help in this process. Discussed handout from Alice Mann and the video, What Size Should We Be? David noted that the congregation has to be involved in this process. Mark said he is confused about the language of program-centered and does not want people to be scared away by the uncertainty. Bonnie is not sure she understands this process. Pastor asked do we believe that God is calling us? He noted that we have already transitioned from a small neighborhood church. Pastor believes that we are called to attempt this change, but we might not be able to achieve it. Tonjia noted that you can look at the SC Synod website for St. Michael to review stats from 2003 to 2010 reflecting everything in our annual, archived reports. The website is ELCA.org. Andy said that we need to advertise more about congregational leadership rather than putting everything on the Pastors and Linda Harriz. This would hopefully result in a cultural change. Discussion to continue.

Letter of resignation/retirement from Youth by Cynthia Trout – After 16 years of service, she has officially retired. Who will take her place?

Calendar updates.

- Wednesdays in Lent Noon Communion @ 12:15, March 9 – April 20
- Wednesdays in Lent Supper & Worship w/drama March 16 – April 13, 6 pm
- Saturday, March 26, 6:00 pm – New Member Dinner
- Saturday, April 2, 9:00 am – Property Clean Up Day
- Friday – Sunday, April 8-10 – LCY Awanita Retreat
- Friday – Sunday, April 8-10 – Table Rock Paddle Sports/Hiking/Camping
- Palm Sunday, April 17
- Easter Egg Hunt, April 17
- Maundy Thursday, April 21
- Good Friday, April 22
- Easter, April 24

What gives us energy or takes it away. The Nashville mission gives us energy. Robert was energized by the children blessing those who were going to Nashville at the first service and by the children holding hands at second service. Tonjia mentioned that there were children in every Sunday School class today. Billy is frustrated by the low attendance in Sunday School. Bonnie got a lot of energy in the Operation Inasmuch meeting with the other churches.

Next meeting is Sunday, April 10 at 1:15.

Adjourned with prayer.

Recorded by Donna Weathers