

**St. Michael Lutheran Church
Congregation Council
Minutes
October 11, 2009**

Present: Linda Harriz, Robert Miles, Nancy Adair, Wilson Worley*, Sally Sizemore, Blake Castor, Ruth Howard*, Peter Strub, Miki Wolff, Greg Monn*, Sally Taylor*, Bill Henry, Dave Cook, Elise Stringer*

*Left prior to conclusion of meeting

Absent: Steve Baker, Sue Clarke

Also Present: Charlie Jones

Packets distributed included: Agenda, Financial Statements, Property Report, Social Ministry Report

Open Meeting: Peter opened the meeting at 1:12, asking Pastor Elise to lead us with a devotion. Pastor Elise's devotion dealt with being called as the leadership of the church to share the gifts that we have in ways that best serve Christ and our neighbor. We do not always do so. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal. 5:22) Christ calls us to serve. We are encouraged to share our gifts with one another.

Approval of Minutes from August & September meetings: The minutes from the **September 20 meeting** had two corrections noted by Nancy Adair. With those changes, Sally Sizemore made the motion to approve, Wilson Worley seconded. Approved by acclamation.

August 16 meeting minutes: There was a brief review of the discussion regarding these minutes from September 20 meeting. The question regards approving and posting of the minutes, which include details pertaining to a lengthy discussion of sensitive issues. Robert's Rules of Order indicate that the minutes must reflect actions taken at the meeting, so the entire portion may not be stricken from the record. Linda distributed revised minutes which simply summarized that particular discussion. Sally Sizemore moved to approve the revised minutes of the August 16, 2009 meeting. Ruth Howard seconded.

Discussion: Miki inquires: What about people who ask what was discussed? Linda offers that since no specifics were identified in the discussion, there is nothing to share with anyone who asks. Sally Sizemore offers that she will take the position of not discussing any of these type issues at social events or in the hallway, but instead recommend that any individuals with concerns put them in writing and come to Council to discuss. Miki shares her sadness about the entire situation, and that it seems that long-time members are not willing to change, and let newcomers be part of the team. People don't seem to be working together. Wilson shared that the Mutual Ministry committee had met with Pastors Robert and Elise regarding the issues, and have made forward progress.

The motion passed by acclamation.

Liaison/Team Progress Reports

WOW (Blake Castor & Sally Taylor) – New member mixer – Scheduled for Friday, November 13, at Spaulding Farm clubhouse. Football theme. Sally Sizemore has taken the lead on this, and will work with WOW to develop menu and other details. Council members should mark their calendars and plan to attend. Sally will let us know about bringing items once the menu is planned.

Blake also reports that he had made several inquiries for hosts for the Christmas 3-F. Peter offers his home; need someone to organize. WOW will work on this.

Learning (Steve Baker - *absent*) – Learning team meeting is scheduled for this Tuesday. Pastor Elise reports that we are currently struggling with Sunday school teachers. We have just enough to fill classrooms; had to have more this year because of the large number of children aged 4-7. Attendance down slightly, but middle and high school attendance up. Today two classrooms were missing teachers. Pastor Elise has personally asked many and been turned her down. The Learning ministry team is not feeling supported; in fact, there are a number of ministry areas that are feeling a lack of support from the congregation.

A list of teachers and class rosters is included in these minutes. Current teacher needs are:

- A third rotational teacher for 3-5 grade
- Additional teacher for 2-3 years class
- Additional teacher 4-5 years class
- It would not be bad to have 1 or 2 available and willing to substitute.
- Also, we have families with children too young for Sunday school; it would be good to have nursery coverage during Sunday school, so that parents can go to Sunday school – or even help.

If you ask if learning ministries is important, most will say yes, but don't support with time or talent. This is ultimately a mission question. We're not teaching content, teaching relationship, teaching a way of living life and making choices.

Pastor Elise's job description includes a mandate to "assist the Learning Ministries Team in the recruitment and training of all lay teachers and administrator."

Sandi Nelsen & Lisa Allen are looking at programs for children's Christmas program. Charlie asks if this program will be the 3rd Sunday in December. Yes, December 20, 2009.

Worship & Music (Sally Sizemore) – meets 10/12, no other report

Stewardship (Greg Monn) – letters and pledge cards sent out

Property (Sue Clarke - *absent*) – Report included in packet – question regarding light-changing ladder equipment and carpet cleaning equipment. Can these items be put on a wish list for purchase? Sally Taylor has a Kirby cleaner – just need chemicals. She will bring for use here. Wilson recommends that a request be publicized in the bulletin/newsletter for carpet cleaning equipment. There is some discussion of the lighting situation, noting that we had previously funds in the budget for a new lighting system, which would not need extensive equipment for bulb changing. There are currently lights out in the very apex of the sanctuary – no ladder will reach this spot. Wilson recommends that this item be further researched, and perhaps a fund started to replace the lighting system.

Peter notes that there is water in storeroom back of fellowship hall – possibly ground water as opposed to HVAC condensate. Also, a Property clean up day needs to be scheduled.

Youth & Athletics (Nancy Adair) – Basketball: we have 6 teams and 62 people playing. Practice begins end of October at Augusta Heights Baptist Church. Pastor Elise notes that AHBC is graciously allowing us to use their gym for our basketball practices. Basketball games begin December 5. Our co-ed softball team plays its last regular game this Thursday.

Social Ministry (Bill Henry) – Bill's report is included in the packet. Pastor Robert noted that Dawn and her family have moved out of the KMHH into a house that they are purchasing. It took 18 months for her to come out of homelessness, but they will never be homeless again. We have a family in our basement shelter.

Program Development (Ruth Howard) – No report

Finance (Miki Wolff) –

Treasurer's Report – (Dave Cook) (Reports included in packet) – everything in line YTD. Cash on hand is about even with what we ended 2008 with. CD matured end of August, which was cashed out and added to our money market checking account.

There was a brief discussion of memorials on the books and St. Michael's memorial gift policy. The council will determine what to do with Jack Black memorial funds (\$400) in November.

Action Items

- **Renewing Congregations Visioning Process** – Nancy reported that she had made contact with Pr. Bob Beaver at Synod regarding the cost of participation in this program. The cost is \$2000, which can be made in whatever way suits us; we need to inform how we will pay. We need to commit by December to participate in next session. Wilson observes that as we have a hard time finding people to teach Sunday school, we may have difficulty finding 6-8 people who will dedicate themselves to leading this effort. Pastor Robert states that this is basically a spiritual growth process, not a management process. We are asking the question: what do we believe God is calling St. Michael to be about? Finding the answer to that question will take prayer and time and Bible study and time. We will need to find the right people for this task – it is about commitment to the process, and a spiritual understanding of what the question is. Maybe next step is for Nancy and Pastor Robert to talk and pray together about who those people may be. The other concern in this area is that we are already growing and changing in good ways; however, this creates chaos, and also creates more jobs than we have qualified people to do them. We have a true need for lay support for programming ministry. Have need for good Council leadership. We have vacancies around table and need time and energy to find people to lead. The outcome of participation in the Renewing Congregations process could be a renewed interest the direction St. Michael goes next. Reminder that Jesus teaches adults and plays with children. The Church teaches children and plays with adults. There are many ways to teach and learn. Renewing Congregations could help us work both sides. It is up to us around this table to make careful, prayerful decisions about the next right step for St. Michael.

Wilson reports that the responses from pastors were good, but none had been in program for long. Here in SC, program has not been here long enough for process to be completed. Perhaps it has been in other states. It behooves us to find out. Nancy or Pastor Robert will contact Dave Daubert to find out. This is a heart process – takes a while to bear fruit. Wilson is in support of the program, but commented he would not be willing to be involved in the program's ongoing implementation due to the time commitment needed.

- **Who will stand for re-election to Council?** Need 7 people to fill slots. (see below)

Completed 2 2-year terms, departing Council:

Sally Taylor
Blake Castor
Miki Wolff

Complete 1 2-year term, eligible for re-election:

Sue Clarke - decline
Ruth Howard - decline
Greg Monn - decline

Completed 1 year of first 2-year term:

Peter Strub (after completing Randy Freeman's term)
Steve Baker (after completing Furman Cantrell's term)
Sally Sizemore
Wilson Worley – resigns after one year of term
Nancy Adair
Bill Henry

- **Nominating Committee Appointment** – By Constitution, the Council appoints a Nominating Committee; Pastor is ex officio of committee. Serving on the Committee from Council will be: Peter, Wilson, Sally Sizemore. Peter will work on getting 3 other committee members from the congregation.

Information Items

Coastal Retreat committee – Finance committee feels that folks who use facility should donate. We as congregation made commitment – but have spent more than two years trying to raise \$2200. Wilson reiterates that we should have check available for the amount we owe to give to Dallas Shealy when she visits us in November. Peter will contact Grethe about working the item (this was Grethe's proposal to the Council in January 2007, which committed St. Michael to this room renovation).

Dallas Shealy will be joining us on November 15 for worship, lunch and council meeting.

Churchwide Assembly Action Resolutions: Pastor Robert distributed a letter from SC Synod which discusses the Churchwide actions in August, and offers several resolutions, two of which were written, adopted and shared by SC congregations, the third is offered by the SC Synod to assist congregations who wish to build a "firewall" around their congregation as a result of the Churchwide actions. (PR distributed some of these ahead of the meeting, some at the meeting. If you do not have a copy, please contact Linda.)

Pastor Robert makes this admonition: we may or may not need a resolution as a congregation. WE don't have a read on congregation. Is any one of these resolutions appropriate or wise or helpful for this congregation at this time? (They are legal) If we move the resolution and seek to adopt it in Council, we may find out where everyone around the table stands. That may not be helpful. If you move it in Council, do you then need to take it to the congregation? That, too, may not be helpful, and may take a lot of energy. It is the purview of the Council in every congregation to determine what is appropriate, wise or helpful.

Sally inquires if we have to make a decision? No.

Peter notes that the Synod is planning a pre-assembly gathering in late January that will invite churches with issues to come together for A Day of Holy Conversation, where all can listen together to diverse speakers and explore legislative options for our life together.

Sally inquires: if we make a decision to adopt one of these resolutions, will it exclude people from coming to St. Michael? It may, indirectly. Those in same gendered relationships may not feel welcome, depending on the resolution adopted.

We will not vote on this today. We are not obligated to vote in any given time frame. We must bear in mind that any action taken by this Council will effect all who follow.

Energy Assessment

Thrivent Habitat Build – dedication November 1, 4 pm
KMHH

Calendar items

- Newsletter Deadline – October 19
- Sonshine Kids' Lock-in – October 16-17
- Reformation/Confirmation – October 25 (during worship)
- Trunk or Treat – October 25
- Operation Christmas Child Packing Day – November 1
- Thrivent Habitat Build Dedication – November 1
- Monarch's Retreat to Lutheridge – November 6-7
- 2010 Planning Retreat @ Lutheridge – January 15-17, 2010
- Weiler/Wellhausen Wedding – January 23, 2010

Next meeting: November 15, 2009, after lunch

Meeting adjourned 3:30 pm, with prayer by Pastor Robert

Respectfully submitted
Linda Harriz
Council Secretary

Fall 2009 Sunday School Roster/Teacher List

TWO YEAR OLDS

Will Frichtl 9/7/06
Jenna Frichtl 9/7/06
Cammie Woody 10/06
Johnathan Ellis 2/6/07
Maddie Bostick 6/11/07
Gaines Henderson 2/11/07
Ryan Patrick Monn 8/9/07
Caroline Blair Boulware 8/30/07

THREE YEAR OLDS

Cameron Castor 1/19/06
Stuart Ruffner 4/5/06
Carter State 7/22/06
Carson Jones (5-11-06)
Evan Moon (12-18-2005)
Rylie Kraus (4-6-06)

Sandy Freeman & Teacher

FOUR YEAR OLDS

Kaley Webster 3/19/05
Jacob Monn 12/1/04
Maren Hester 11-16-04

KINDERGARTEN

Jack Steele (May 04)
Sarah Janosky (June 04)
Kaileigh Wallace (December 03)
Grayson Chassereau (4-13-04)

Jennifer Chassereau & Teacher

FIRST GRADE

Metthea Mathiasen (6/03)
Samantha Walgate (5/03)

SECOND GRADE

Megan Allen (4/02)
Isaac Fisher (8/02)
Townshend Gillespie (3/02)
Tommy Janosky (2/02)
Adam Monn (10/02)
Allyn Hickey (4-4-02)
Kyle Reid (7/02)
Emerson Steele (4/02)

Diane Smith & Linda Pennington

THIRD GRADE

Allison Buehler
Peyton Gillespie
Anders Mathiasen
Zachary Monteith
Grant Stover
Savannah Varney

FOURTH GRADE

Marissa Haller
Karl Schmidt

FIFTH GRADE

Andrew Allen
Amber Buehler
Zoe Henderson
Emily Reid
Alexandria Walgate

Angelika Schmidt & Rae Gillespie

SIXTH GRADE

Hannah Daigle
Jordan Dillard
Parker Echols
Holland Echols
Anna Hallman
Tyler Miller
Parker Monteith
Elaina Reck
Christian Schuetterle
Brianna Webster

SEVENTH GRADE

Adrian Babilinski
Krystian Babilinski
Bradley Bruckmann
Benjamin Howard
Daniel Howard

EIGHTH GRADE

Mathew Harriz
McKenzie Rasche
Darrian Webster

Ashley Twitchell & Newell Nelsen

FALL 2010 TWOS

Helen Joy Arthur (10/07/07)
Carol Rose Arthur (10/07/07)
Parker Corn (2/24/08)
Livie Woody (5-12-08)
Miller Steele (7-9-08)

FALL 2011 TWOS

Hannah Hester (10/6/08)
Andrew Ellis (11-5-08)
Dylan Eargle 10/02/2008
Jed Rau (5/21/09)
Kaden Wallace (5/27/09)

NINTH GRADE

Sawyer Fleig
Austin Joyce
Sarah Knowles
Carter Wroblewski

TENTH GRADE

Blake Bruckmann
Katy Hallman
Aaron Lesiak

ELEVENTH GRADE

Erin Doege
Anne Rivers Hiller

TWELFTH GRADE

Eric Benfield
Zack Daigle
Jordan Harriz

Jeffrey Stringer & Jeff Forrester

CONFIRMATION 2009-2010

Daniel Howard (2)
Benjamin Howard (2)
Darrian Webster (2)
Austin Joyce (1)
McKenzie Rasche (1)
Sarah Knowles (1)
Adrian Babilinski (1)
Krystian Babilinski (1)

Saturdays:

October 3 and 24
November 14
January 30
February 27
March 27
April 17 (maybe)