

**Orientation Meeting
St. Michael Council
January 23, 2011, 4 – 8 pm**

Present: Pastor Robert, Peter Strub, Donna Weathers, Angela Bostick, David Cooke, Tonjia Groblewski, Sandy Daughtry, Mark Haller, Nancy Adair, Bonnie Cook, Andy Celinskis, Billy Koch, Sarah Williams, Jackie Frederick, Linda Harriz

Absent: Pastor Elise

Pastor Robert opened the meeting with a brief Bible Study and prayer. Genesis 12:1-3, Isaiah 42:5-7; Matthew 4:12-17, Acts 2:14-18; Acts 1:8. God's dream is that everyone be blessed, and chooses Abram to begin with.

An effective council leader is: (Peter, Nancy, Linda and Robert offered their thoughts on effective Council leadership qualities):

Peter: An effective Council Leader is a facilitator; each has a role and a ministry; lead a group. Find individuals to facilitate the ministry. Collectively as leaders we will lead the church. We need to build a roster and energize that roster of ministry leaders to grow and expand our ministries.

Nancy: An effective Council Leader is one who shows up for meetings - Council and team. Don't have to lead ministry meetings, important to be prepared for both types. Get up, suit up and show up. An effective Council leader must also be involved in ministry areas. It might be necessary to prop up the team leader. It is necessary to know what is going on in your ministry area and be aware of the whole picture. Remember, each Council member has a mailbox in stairwell near nursery. Carol Cooke delivers mail to those boxes about twice a week, and checks for mail for the church office as well.

Linda: An effective Council Leader is one who has read the Constitution of St. Michael Lutheran Church. It's not necessary to memorize it, just be aware of the resource that it is. The constitution addresses the nature and purpose of the church, the powers of the congregation, the Church affiliation, property ownership, membership in the congregation, and more.

Specifically, Chapter 12.04, the Constitution states:

The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- d. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling, appointment, or employment.
- e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.

- g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
- h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide units of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

C12.05. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

- a. The Congregation Council shall be the board of directors of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of South Carolina, except as otherwise provided herein, provided that congregation Council members shall only be liable for their willful misconduct and no other.

In addition, in its discussion of Congregation Committees, Chapter 13.06 states:

C13.06. At its annual planning retreat the Congregation Council shall appoint four voting members of the congregation to serve on each committee as follows: 1) the chairperson; 2) a Congregation Council member to serve as liaison and advocate; 3) two additional members. These appointees may recruit and appoint additional volunteer members to serve on their committee, provided that they are voting members of the congregation, that they are not presently serving on another committee, and that their appointment is communicated in writing to the Congregation Council.

- An effective Council leader is...approachable or approaching – easy to access, eager to welcome the stranger
- An effective Council leader is...one who actively seeks to keep their area ministry leadership on track and progressing, supporting the team leader and the team.
- An effective Council leader is...one who communicates with the Church office – or makes certain that the team leader knows that is their responsibility.
- An effective Council leader is ... present, visible, aware – at worship, Sunday school, Council meetings, Sunday lunch.
- An effective Council leader is ... leading the way for St. Michael's to become a Program-Centered Church, as opposed to a Pastor-centered church. Knowing that to grow we must acknowledge that not everyone has to attend everyone thing, and that not everything has to be made appealing to everyone. It's OK to schedule two activities for the same day and time- if someone participating in one wants to participate in the other, then they have a decision to make.
- Lastly, and perhaps, most importantly, an effective Council leader is ... one who Speaks the Truth in Love. It won't be all flowers and perfume, power tools and car grease in our meeting room. There will be differences of opinion; there will be times when the group comes to an impasse.

Pastor Robert: Pastor Robert began by stating that although Peter, Nancy, Linda and he had not discussed their presentations, they each took a different path – Peter, from an administrative viewpoint; Nancy, from a pragmatic viewpoint; Linda, from a constitutional viewpoint; and he, from a relational viewpoint. Pastor Robert passed out and reviewed his thoughts regarding what an effective Council Leader is. (It is attached separately, if you did not get one. Please put it in your notebook along with the other handouts from this meeting.)

Long Term Disability: David Cooke explained the Long Term Disability status of Pastor Elise. Her LTD begins on Monday, January 24, and during which time we cannot supplement her salary and she can do no work for St. Michael. Everyone is encouraged to visit the Stringer's CaringBridge website.

Design for Ministry: The organization chart and Design for Ministry were reviewed and discussed briefly.

At 5:30 pm, the group broke for dinner and fellowship. Thanks to Peter for providing BBQ and sides and to Linda for providing dessert.

Following dinner, Nancy Adair led the group through the Renewable Congregations exercise and orientation. The PowerPoint show she used is attached. (You can print out the slides and include them with these minutes in your notebooks. **Returning Council members are asked to bring their Renewable Organization Workbooks with them to Council Retreat in February;** new Council members will receive their workbooks at that time.)

There was some discussion about the idea of being renewable rather than consumable. Some obstacles to success were noted:

- Learning needs more people on the team;
- the 2010 We Are Family Stewardships Albums have not all been returned at this point. This Stewardship process needs improvement (one Council member had still not received the book, and therefore had not been able to return a pledge card).
- Donna reminded us of the Ministry Fair we had several years ago, when the discussion of obstacles brought up the fact that perhaps some of the Time and Talent items needed further explanation.

Fire in your belly! Discussion of St. Michael's different ministry areas ensued and Council members chose which ministry areas they had passion for serving in.

- Youth & Athletics: Nancy Adair & Mark Haller
- Evangelism: Tonjia Groblewski & Jackie Frederick
- Stewardship: Billy Koch & Peter Strub
- Worship & Music: Sandy Daughtry
- Faith Formation: Angela Bostick
- Social Ministry: Bonnie Cook
- Mutual Ministry: David Cooke
- Finance: Donna Weathers
- Property: Andy Celinskis

A Time & Talent report will be sent to all Council members ASAP so that you can begin to build ministry teams. Remember our constitution! Chapter 13, Paragraph 6 above. You have the power to anoint!

Election of Officers

Motion: Billy Koch, Jackie Frederick: that the officers of Council remain the same, if all are in agreement.

All agreed to serve again; Linda made the distinction between her job as Parish Administrator and her service as Congregation/Council Secretary clear. There was no further discussion. Motion approved by acclamation.

Needs in next 30 days. Because we will not meet again as a Council until February's retreat, there were several items that were in need of attention:

- ▶ HVAC in Sanctuary, Sacristy, Bathroom by Sacristy (Andy will investigate)
- ▶ Leak in Robe Room (Andy will investigate)
- ▶ Washing the robes after leak is fixed (Sandy will have them washed and return by next Sunday)
- ▶ Basketball Banquet planning (Nancy & Mark)
- ▶ Operation InAsMuch planning (Bonnie, with Pastor Robert)
- ▶ New member dinner (need to finalize date – Tonjia, Jackie)
- ▶ Congregational Meeting March 6 (annual reports and directory)
- ▶ Seminary Student Paperwork signed (Peter, Pastor Robert)
- ▶ Synod Apportionment Paperwork signed (Peter, Pastor Robert, Linda)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm with prayer by Pastor Robert.

Respectfully submitted

Linda B. Harriz
Congregational Council Secretary

Attachments:

- Design for Ministry 2011
- Pastor Robert's Effective Council Leader Points
- Nancy's Renewing Congregations Power Point Slides
- Updated Directory
- Council Member Contact List – please update if your listing is wrong or you have other contact venues you would prefer we use

Official Action Taken Needs to be done
