

# VERMONT CHURCH 2009 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 24, 2010

## Vermont Lutheran Church is a Congregation that CARES. We are:

Christians  
Actively  
Reaching Out  
Experiencing Christ and  
Spreading the Word

**The meeting called to order 10:30 AM at Vermont Lutheran Church** by Council President, Peter Antonie. Pastor Chad Christensen opened the meeting with devotions from John 10 (7-10).

**Minutes from the Annual Meeting of Jan 25, 2009** were handed out / reviewed. A motion was made (Ginny Johnson, Ingerid Kvam) to accept the minutes. Motion was carried unanimously on a voice vote.

**Introduction and Opening Comments** made by Peter Antonie. We have had a very active and productive year with the involvement of many individuals from our congregation. This year we also had the largest number of new members in 25 years. We have an energized congregation and bright future. Annual Report and Ballets distributed. Next year we will try to make the annual report available a week before the annual meeting to give the congregation time to review it and prepare questions/comments for the meeting.

**Pastor Chad's Report:** (please refer to statement in Annual Report) Theme: "How will Vermont be known (by ourselves and our community) in its mission and ministry?"

### 5 Areas of Need/Challenge in 2010

- Young Adult involvement in the life of the church
- Optimizing structure, organization and communication with respect to planning and carrying out Mission/Ministry at Vermont
- Facility Space/Use, especially for educational events
- Inspiring congregants to actively participate in programs and ministries out of interest vs obligation.
- To meet the needs of new ministries, we need to address expansion of committee and administrative work

**Church Council Report:** Presented by council president, Peter Antonie. Sincere thanks were made to outgoing council members Klover Schafer, Gary Olsen, and Jon Urness for thoughtful and faithful service to our congregation. We have now completed our first year as a stand-alone congregation. We have grown in members, ideas and enthusiasm. Our thanks to Pastor Chad for his leadership and pastoral care. We look forward to coming year with faith, energy and optimism.

**Treasurer's Report:** In the treasurer's absence (Patty Herrling), Peter reviewed and expanded on highlights from the treasurer's report (please refer to written material in annual report). A summary of budget information to date will be published each month in the Messenger and on the Vermont web site. We are in the process of simplifying how the financial information is formatted to optimize clarity. Our proposed budget for the last year was \$141,860. Actual spending was \$134,744.95. We had less than projected expenses for fuel costs, property costs, pastoral salary (Pastor Chad started in mid-January, not January 1). Regular giving covers operating expenses. Dinners and other fundraising events cover most of our mission work. We came close to meeting our operating expenses, but still had to cover some of our budget using reserve funds. Don Parrell moved and Harold Norslein seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report on unanimous voice vote. The motion was carried.

**Committee Reports** were presented by representatives from each group (see summaries in Annual Report). We have had a very active year at Vermont with involvement of a large number of our members.

- **Endowment Fund** Karsten Haugen
- **Lutefisk Report** Peter Antonie
- **Sunday School** Joannie Haugen
- **WELCA** Kris Antonie
- **Stewardship Team** Jill Stone-Brisky
- **Mission Bazaar** Jill Stone-Brisky
- **Outreach** Pastor Chad Christensen
- **Worship Team** Ingerid Kvam
- **Youth** Joan Haugen
- **Adult Education/Bible Study** Pastor Chad Christensen

**Elections for Council and other Elected Positions:** The following individuals were nominated to fill vacant church positions Following the motion to accept the entire ballot as presented (Don Parrell, Marsha Morley) the ballot was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

- Trustee: Patty Herrling (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- Trustee: Ingerid Kvam (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- Deacon: Virginia Johnson (1<sup>st</sup> Term)
  
- Deacon: Stan Morley (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- Financial Secretary: Appointed by council. Joanne Skalet agreed to serve again.
- Endowment Committee: Karsten Haugen (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Greg Herrling (2<sup>nd</sup> term), William Meddings (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- SS Superintendent: Elected by SS Board: Joanie Haugen/Lisa King currently serving.
- Synod Assembly Reps: Marlene Ludolph and Klover Schafer
- 2011 Nominating Committee: Appointed by Church Council
- 2010 Christmas Tree: Doris Hayes, Ludolph Family, Herrling Family

**2010 Budget:** Peter reviewed the **proposed 2010 budget of \$145,100**. This is our most ambitious budget in the history of our church. It is a 3% increase from last year's budget, but an 11% increase from our actual spending last year. Peter emphasized that a vote to approve the budget entailed making a personal commitment to help meet the budget. The mission budget will continue to be funded primarily by special events. Peter discussed the council proposal to implement a variety of contribution options to insure continuous giving independent of Sunday to Sunday attendance. This might include monthly or bimonthly giving that could be mailed to the church office or debited from individual bank accounts. The floor was opened for discussion. Motion was made (Virginia Urness, Don Parrell) and carried on unanimous voice vote to approve our proposed budget.

**There was no other Old Business brought to the floor.**

### **New Business**

#### **Outdoor Facility**

- Ground breaking/construction will start in March or April. It will be completed by summer so that we can hold mid-week summer services there.
- We still need a good name for it.
- Fundraising Team needed. Total cost is estimated at \$70,000. All but \$44,000 is in hand.
- Back Steps from the kitchen to the outside will also be remodeled for safety and energy conservation.

#### **Sign Replacement**

- The large outside sign needs replacement.
- We also need sandwich board style signs to announce special events that can be placed at the intersection of Hwy 78 and Vermont Church Rd.
- Sign designs done by Terry Dewitt were passed around the congregation.
- A congregational meeting to approve funding will be convened later this year.

**Concluding remarks were made. A motion was made (Dave Dybdahl, Bill Meddings) and carried to adjourn the meeting at Noon. The meeting was concluded with the Lord's Prayer.**

Respectfully Submitted by Bonnie Dauck, Vermont Council Secretary