

## VERMONT CHURCH 2009 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2009

**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 Luke 11 (5-13).

**Minutes from the Annual Meeting of Jan 19, 2008** were handed out, read and opened for discussion. A motion was made (Don Parrell, Jill Brisky) and carried to unanimously accept the minutes on a voice vote.

### **Pastor Chad's Report:**

- Pastor Chad greeted the congregation and expressed his enthusiasm for joining us in worship and mission at Vermont.
- Since beginning his call Jan 15, 2009, Pastor Chad has met local pastors, visited shut-in Vermont members, and met with church staff, worship team members and confirmation leaders. He will do a "meet and greet" session with confirmation leaders, students/parents this month and will attend his first church council meeting in February.
- Pastor Chad introduced himself to our congregation as an education driven, mission minded pastor who plans to begin his pastor ship at Vermont with emphases on stewardship, mission and youth ministry.
- Believing strongly about living in a culture of prayer and providing ongoing adult education, Pastor Chad invited members to think about, fill in surveys he handed out and then return them in a week or 2 with preferences for times and subjects for adult study sessions. He plans to run both daytime and evening sessions.
- Pastor Chad characterized his pastoral style as one that seeks to strengthen ministry initiated from within and will strongly encourage and support ideas for ministry generated by members of the congregation.
- He expressed his concern for inactive members and outlined his intended approaches of calling inactive members, visiting with them in person, joining them in prayer and then trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to complete Gods work in each of us.
- He also feels it is imperative for our congregation to focus on unchurched people in our communities; starting with invitations to family, friends and neighbors and extending to people we do not know personally. It will be important to invite them to worship and to inform prospective visitors about who, where and what we are about at Vermont. He would like anyone who has invited guests to leave a note on his desk or to call him so that he can do follow-up contacts with individuals and families.
- Pastor Chad's office hours and contact information will be routinely posted in the Sunday bulletins and the monthly Vermont Messenger.

### **Church Council Report:**

- Peter reviewed Vermont's journey over the past year that culminated in our congregation's decision to become a stand-alone church with a full-time pastor. He then welcomed Pastor Chad on behalf of our entire congregation. Pastor Chad's call with Vermont began on January 15, 2009. He comes to us from his previous call of 8 years in Scandia, Michigan. He comes with a background in biology and social work and has recently completed his master's degree in divinity. He currently resides in Mount Horeb.
- Peter thanked the council and call-committee members for their cooperative spirit and faithful work done over the past year by as we made adjustments and transitions from the initial "road map" adopted by our congregation at our last annual meeting to our present state as a stand-alone congregation with the services of a full-time pastor.

**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 booklet). Proposed/approved income for 2008 was \$133,598. Actual income was \$129,953.06, a shortfall of about \$3,550. This resulted in a carry over balance of \$8,324.27 for 2009. Proposed/approved giving for 2008 was 120,000 and actual giving was approximately \$112,000, about an \$8,000 shortfall. Peter entertained comments and questions before asking for a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Don Parrell moved and Harold Norslein seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report on unanimous voice vote. The motion was carried.

- **Memorial Accounts:** Peter explained "designated" and "undesignated" donations. At the end of each fiscal year, 10% of all undesignated money over \$1000 is transferred to the Endowment Fund and can thereby be used for community outreach.
- **Mission Budget:** Vermont continues to give approximately 10% of its total budget to mission. Mission money is earned through our special fund raising events including, but not limited to the lutefisk dinner, men's meatball dinner, the mission bazaar, Souper Bowl Lunch, Bicycle Breakfast and WELCA support (dues, women's tea, bake sales, fair-trade coffee sales, and other fund raisers and charitable projects).

**Lutefisk Report:** Again sold out our tickets. \$13,469.37 profit was made this year. \$11,450 went to meet our mission commitments, \$1,300 went to the Endowment Fund and \$118 went to the general operating fund.

**Building Report:** Several projects were completed over the past year: Improving the balcony level small child area; placing safety barriers in the balcony; painting and replacing window coverings in the fellowship hall, office and nursery; doing an energy audit and following up on recommendations for increased insulation, installation of an “on-demand” water heater, modifying ductwork and replacing thermostats to zone heating areas during the week, Replacement of the church sign located east of the church parking lot is still pending.

**Cemetery Committee:** No report. New members are being solicited to replace those no longer on the committee. The cemetery committee operates independently from the governance of the Vermont Church congregation.

**Sunday School:** Please refer to detailed report in Annual Meeting Booklet. 37 children are currently enrolled in our weekly Sunday School program for preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Joanie Haugen noted that because bad weather has twice forced cancelation of the children’s Christmas program, they will be opting instead to do a spring/Easter presentation.

**WELCA:** Please refer to detailed report in the Annual Meeting Booklet. Women of Vermont participate in many church, local and global mission activities including: assembling layettes, midwife, and health kits for Africa and school kits for Mississippi, quilt and knitting missions, fund raisers, serving funerals, working with the Christians in Action Food Pantry in Mazomanie and doing Fair Trade Coffee Sales. Direct financial support is given to ELCA world hunger and Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Pennies for Poverty, Sugar Creek Bible Camp, Oakwood Service League and Samaritan Deeds Mission. There are currently 3 Bible study groups that meet monthly; the Joy and Hannah Circles (day meetings) and the Evening Circle (7:00 PM). The Joy and Hannah Circles discuss the monthly bible studies from “Lutheran Women Today”. The Evening Circle chooses a variety of books and films to discuss.

**Elections for Council and other Elected Positions:** Outgoing council member Julie Wright was thanked for her service. The following individuals were nominated to fill vacant church positions. Following the motion to accept the entire ballot as presented (Paul Skalet and Connie Goderstadt) the ballot was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

- o Trustee: Peter Antonie (2nd term)
- o Trustee: Scott Berger (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- o Financial Secretary: Appointed by council. Joanne Skalet agreed to serve again.
- o Endowment Committee: Gaila Olsen (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Karsten Haugen (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Stan Morley (1<sup>st</sup> term)
- o Sunday School Superintendent: Elected by Sunday School Board Joanie Haugen and Lisa King are currently serving.
- o Synod Assembly Representatives: Dave and Joan Haugen
- o 2010 Nominating Committee: Appointed by Church Council
- o 2009 Christmas Tree Committee: Doris Hayes, Ludolph Family, Herrling Family

**Discussion of Future Ministry:** 5 areas of emphasis were determined from surveys completed by our members:

1. Stewardship
2. Sunday School/Confirmation/Post Confirmation Youth Ministry
3. Adult Education and Bible Study.
4. Outreach to People in our Church and Communities
5. Mission

In our call to Pastor Chad (please refer to a copy of our call letter to Pastor Chad), we as individual members of our congregation have committed to participating actively in our faith and church life by attending worship, praying for our pastor and our congregation, assisting with the mentoring and education of our youth, ministering to those who are grieving or suffering, bringing the Good News to and inviting to worship people who are not currently members, attending Bible studies, and assisting with mission projects.

**2009 Budget:** Peter reviewed the 2009 budget and emphasized that a vote to approve the budget entailed making a personal commitment to help meet the budget. Without financially handicapping our budgets, it will be necessary for each of us to consider increasing our giving from past years to meet our financial commitment to Pastor Chad and our other administrative and maintenance costs. The mission budget will continue to be funded primarily by special events. The floor was opened for discussion. Scott Berger suggested encouraging automatic checking debiting or mailing offering monthly or biweekly to the church rather than relying on weekly giving at worship. Motion was made (Don Parrell, Harold Norslein) and carried on unanimous voice vote to approve our proposed budget of \$142, 510 for 2009.

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

**Motion was made (Paul Skalet, Michael Dauck) 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