

## VERMONT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

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**DATE: 01-14-10** Meeting called to order by council president, Peter Antonie at 6:30 PM. Pastor Chad led devotions.

**PRESENT:** Peter Antonie, Scott Berger , Jill Stone-Brisky, Pastor Chad Christensen, Bonnie Dauck, Bill Kennedy, Gary Olsen, Klover Schafer,

**ABSENT:** Patty Herrling, Jon Urness

**ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS:**

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Report submitted and is attached to this report.

- **Synod Mission Event:** Is being hosted at Vermont, Sunday Jan.31. Women's group will be service a meal for about 35 participants.
- **Wednesday Lenten Services at Vermont Church:** Will begin Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 7:00 . Pastor Chad reported Vermont had been invited to join 5 other Mount Horeb area congregations in a rotating schedule of pastors for the Lenten season. The council preferred to have Wednesday services at Vermont, led by Pastor Chad this year. It was felt consistent pastoral leadership would strengthen our stand-alone congregation and confirmation group participation.
- **Adult Study Groups:** Resumed Jan 19, Tuesday evenings (The Centered Life) and Jan. 21, Thursday mornings (Honoring of Neighbor's Faith). Classes will run 5 weeks.
- **Membership:** 22 inactive families have been identified and Pastor Chad will be contacting them. 4-5 new families may be joining our congregation. New member classes may begin in Feb.
- **Continuing Education:** Pastor Chad will be attending "Congregational Renewal" in Beloit. Feb 11 and "Rural Ministry Conference at Wartburg Seminary March 7-9. The Synod LEAD workshop is March 13 (council and other interested members are encouraged to attend).
- **Vacation:** (Taken to date 6). Request: Tues Jan 19, Tues, Feb 16, and Thursday afternoon-Friday, Feb 18-19.
- **5 Focus Areas:** To be addressed at Annual Meeting, Jan. 17: Finances, Inspiring Active Membership, Development of Leaders, Inspiring Young Adults, Missions at Vermont.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes from November and December reviewed and approved (Scott, Klover)

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Nov minutes reviewed and approved (Jill, Bonnie)

### VISION AND MISSION:

- **Church Secretary:** Linda Watkins may be back by March 1. Many thanks to all who have helped fill her shoes in her absence, especially Joan Haugen.
- **Signs:** Terry Dewitt's plans reviewed, approved by council (Klover, Scott) for up to \$3000 to replace sign at church and to have another event sign for temporary posting at the corner of Hwy 78 and Vermont Church Road. Will introduce proposal at the Annual Meeting and get congregational approval at a later date.
- **Membership Rolls:** 358 individual members currently.
  - Joan updated computer info with names and phone numbers for each member. This needs to be updated on an ongoing basis with transfers and new members and needs to be reviewed annually.
  - 22 underactive members that were identified will be contacted by the pastor.
  - Computer Files need to be kept current for transfers, new members, baptisms, funerals, weddings.
  - Communion cards will be discontinued when old cards run out. Data from the cards has not been kept current for several years, cards are expensive.
  - **Pictorial Directory:** Photos of new members will be posted on the bulletin board (thanks, Joan for picture taking). A new, updated directory is needed and can probably be done in-house.
- **Mutual Ministry Committee:** Pastor Chad would like to form a support committee possibly comprised of Council Officers and 2-3 other members. It would meet 1-2X/year. Sarah Yotter from the synod office will come in March or April to provide information about Mutual Ministry Teams and how to set one up.
- **Wednesday Lenten Services at Vermont Church:** Will begin Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 7:00. Beginning the following Wed., free will offering soup suppers beginning at 6:00 PM will precede the Lenten services. (Total of 5 soup suppers). Bonnie will line up groups to bring soup, bread and cookies for the meals. Peter will put a notice in the local paper to invite community participation.
- **Confirmation Class:** There will be no Confirmation classes during Lent, but students will be required to attend Wednesday services. They will also host one of the soup suppers.
- **Souper Lunch:** 11:00 on Feb. 7 after worship service to benefit Seminary Students.
- **Men's Meatball Dinner:** 11:00 on Feb 21 after worship to benefit missions at Vermont.

- **Outdoor Facility:** Bill Kennedy may be able to get a very good price on a new stove from Sub Zero. Scott Berger indicated that we may be able to get a donated refrigerator. Fundraising needs to begin to raise the required \$44,000. Need 5-6 member committee to get this started. Open for ideas: garage sale, run/walk, raffles, pledge cards for installment payments over a designated time, etc....
- **Haiti Donations:** Congregation will be informed of opportunities to give to Haitian relief funds in the wake of the recent earthquake. An ELCA flier will be distributed over the next several weeks at worship services and information about donation to Dr. DiGiovani's Haiti Medical Mission will be posted in the worship bulletin.
- **Vermont Constitution:** Last revision was done in 1997 and needs to be done again in the coming year.
- **Annual Meeting Jan. 17:** Speakers to include Peter (will also do treasurer's report in Patty's absence), Pastor Chad (Devotions, 5 Focus Areas), Committee/Team representatives for SS, Youth, WELCA, Endowment, Mission Bazaar, Stewardship, Outreach, Worship, Library, Outside Facility, Signs. Will also remember members who have passed away in the last year.
- **Installation of New Council Members:** January 31 during worship service.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:45 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Council Meeting: Thursday, February 11, 2010 6:30 PM** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs of each month)

Respectfully Submitted by Bonnie Dauck, Vermont Council Secretary