

VERMONT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

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DATE: 05-14-09 Meeting called to order by council president, Peter Antonie at 6:30 PM. Pastor Chad led devotions centered on mission planning based on Luke 4:16-22.

PRESENT: Peter Antonie, Scott Berger, Jill Stone-Brisky, Pastor Chad Christensen, Bonnie Dauck, Patty Herrling, Gary Olsen, Jon Urness

ABSENT: Bill Kennedy, Klover Schafer

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes from April reviewed and approved (Jon, Jill)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Reports from April reviewed and approved. (Gary, Scott). \$3000 pledge to ELCA will be sent this month.

CALENDAR:

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

Stewardship: Pastor Chad reviewed material from a Stewardship Workshop with Dr. Rick Rouse given at Wartburg Seminary April 16-17, 2009. Highlights included

“Paradigm shifts in giving”

- People no longer give out of loyalty (except Builder generation born 1906-1925).
- Fewer people make regular pledges.
- People are motivated by mission and are especially moved by actual stories describing the need for and effects of missions that the church has given to.
- People give to what they are passionate about.
- People need to be asked to give: it gives them the opportunity to connect with their passion.
- People need to be thanked.

Things a parish can do:

- Monitor giving and pledges (intentionally monitoring giving).
- Interpret ministry and mission (highlight a ministry a month).
- Promote ongoing stewardship.
- Stay transparent: keep congregation informed of parish finances.
- Develop a strategy to meet income goals.
- Start with mission objectives and determine the funding needed to meet goals.
- Make sure people see the connection between giving and mission.
- Think “out of the envelope” for fundraising (special projects, on-line giving, monthly account debits),
- Help congregants' spiritual lives go deeper.

Parade Float will be assembled for June 7 parade in Mount Horeb as a part of outreach/publicity. We will participate in other community events through the summer and fall.

Postcard Worship Advertising: Will concentrate on a mailing in the late summer before Sunday School begins.

Summer Mid-Week Worship starts June 3. 7:00 PM each Wednesday. Services will be more informal and will give individuals and families an opportunity to worship regularly, especially when they have plans on weekends during the summer. Postcards will be sent out to the surrounding area to announce Wednesday and Sunday services. Pastor Chad will be gone June 10 and June 17.

Synod Assembly: Pastor Chad will be away to attend the synod assembly on the weekend of June 6-7. Don Parrell will read Bishop Burnside's Sermon made available for that day.

Vermont Graduates will be recognized on June 7.

Adult Study Groups: Tuesday night and Thursday morning bible study sessions continue studying readings from Devotional Classics by Smith and Foster. Books can be privately purchased or bought through Pastor Chad.

Vacation: Pastor Chad will be taking vacation from noon May 17 through May 19 and the afternoon of May 24 through Memorial Day, May 25.

Planning Teams have been established for:

- **Stewardship** (Jill Stone-Brisky, Jeff King, Jill Lynch, Paul Skalet and Pastor Chad)
- **Outreach** (Virginia Urness, Marcia Morely, Terry DeWitt, Doris Hayes, Joan Haugen and Pastor Chad)
- **Christian Education** (Sunday School Superintendent and teachers)

VISION AND MISSION:

Local Giving Mission: Pastor Chad suggested we consider highlighting a monthly community need project as need arise. Peter suggested doing matching funds from the endowment fund.

Movers/Set-Up Team: Peter has a tentative list of congregants.

Mission Bazaar: Jill Stone-Brisky is giving up the chair to the mission bazaar and will be working with the stewardship committee. A new chair is needed.

2nd Phone Line: A second line and intercom between Pastor Chad and Linda is needed. Preliminary plan presented by TDS was too expensive and had many more features than we need. Linda will continue looking for alternate plans.

Updating Pictorial Directory: although our directory was recently done, we now have a new pastor and new members. Council discussed inexpensive ways to update current directory. It is possible we could do our own digital photos of members and do our own directory more cheaply than contracting with a commercial photographer and directory company.

New Red Hymnals: New Lutheran hymnals are on display in the church. They are replacing the green hymnal nationally. Cost is about \$20/book or 4 for \$67. Council discussed ways of funding new books, but this is not a priority for the current year.

Habitat for Humanity: Building will commence in Mazomanie in August. Vermont work dates are Aug 15 and Sept 12. Contact person in Don Wallace in Mazomanie. Still need \$7000 from area churches (about \$500/church). Thrivent is funding a large portion of the cost of the home. We are looking for volunteers from Vermont to help with construction.

Rio Hand Bell Choir: Will be at our worship service on May 31. A thank-brunch will follow.

Last Day of Sunday School for the 2008-2009 year is May 31 with picnic at the Herrling farm after worship. All are welcome. We will also recognize and thank our Sunday School staff on that day.

Sunday School Next Year: 1st 15 minutes will be in worship with congregation. Children and teachers will adjourn to the fellowship hall after the children's sermon. We will have 5 classes with 5 theme rotation centers. We will discontinue family Sundays on the first Sunday of each month in order to get more classroom time to cover curriculum. We may need to recruit substitute teachers in order to give regular teachers a break. Starting in 2010, Pastor Chad would like to explore doing Sunday School prior to our worship service so that children and parents can attend worship together afterward.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 PM with the Lords Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2009 6:30 PM (2nd Thurs of each month)

Respectfully Submitted by Bonnie Dauck, Vermont Council Secretary