

Galilee Evangelical Lutheran Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
February 10, 2011

Attendance:

Council members present: Pastor Ralph Baumgartner, Paula Brown, Karen Groebner, Joan Jarombek, Elaine Mundt, Carl Nelson, Ron Peterson, Dan Simundson and Abraham Watson. Council members absent: Florence Matadi. Others present: Steve Groebner, Treasurer and Mary Lanoux, Financial Secretary.

President Ron Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led devotions on Luke 11.

Minutes of the January 13, 2011 Council Meeting:

Upon motion by Steve and a second by Abe, the council approved the minutes of the January 13, 2011 meeting of the church council.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Ralph provided a report on his activities for the month of January. A copy of his report is attached as Exhibit A.

Election of Officers:

Upon a motion by Ron and a second by Ralph, the council appointed the following as Officers:

President-Ron Peterson
Vice President-Joan Jarombek
Treasurer-Steve Groebner
Financial Secretary-Mary Lanoux
Secretary-Carl Nelson
Back Up Secretary-Elaine Mundt

Financial Secretary's Report:

Mary presented the Financial Secretary's Report for the month of January 2011. Regular offering for the month was nearly \$1,200 below the pledged amount. According to Mary, it is unusual for giving in January to be below pledged levels. It was also noted that loose and unpledged giving was approximately \$300 below budgeted levels.

Treasurer's Report:

Steve presented the Treasurer's Report for January 2011. For the month, expenses exceeded giving by \$923, but were below budgeted levels by \$250. Steve explained all significant variances between actual and budgeted expenses. Upon discussion, it was concluded that expenses related to the New Year's Eve Party should be reflected as Intergenerational Expense rather than Adult Education.

Upon motion by Carl and a second by Karen, the council approved the Financial Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's Report, subject to the correction identified above. The council members also agreed that we should closely monitor actual giving compared to pledged levels.

Old Business:

Update on Finance/Audit Changes: Ron reported that many of the matters identified in the audit of the 2009 church records had been addressed and the remaining items would be addressed by the end of March. Ron also indicated that a group was evaluating new church accounting software. We have a free trial period through March 9 to use and decide if we want to purchase the software. The annual cost would be approximately \$400. Based on using the software thus far, it appears that it will adequately serve our needs and will eliminate performing certain steps twice as we do now. Ron will attempt to bring samples the reports that will be generated by the system to the Council Retreat on February 26.

The council also discussed that the new system would allow more accurate tracking of designated giving and memorials. Once this new system is operational we will be in a position to establish a Memorial Committee to monitor memorial contributions. Several congregational members have volunteered to serve on a Memorial Committee.

Conference Assemblies and Congregational Tool Kit: Pastor Ralph reported that he, Ron and Elaine would be attending the St. Paul Area Synod Conference Assembly at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul on February 12. Other council and congregational members are also invited to attend. On February 26, the St. Paul Area Synod will be hosting a Congregational Tool Kit from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in North St. Paul. The Tool Kit is a training event for congregational lay leaders to meet with other leaders and Bishop Rogness. Since the church council retreat is the same day as this Tool Kit, council members will be unable to attend. However, Ron encouraged council members to attend future Tool Kit events. Ron also indicated that the Tool Kit discussions on neighborhood connections are very informative and encouraged the GLOW leaders, Elly Peterman, Christena Watson and Jim Zrust to attend if they are able.

Constitution Changes: Ron mentioned one of the changes to the Galilee Constitution that was approved at the Congregational Annual Meeting was to allow Galilee to indemnify church council members. After discussion, the Council agreed the matter should be investigated further. Steve said that he would check Galilee's insurance policies to see if we already had coverage of this type. Elaine will contact the St. Paul Area Synod to see if they could provide further guidance.

New Business:

Council Members and Responsibilities: Ron stated that he had received word from Florence Matadi that, due to her other time commitments, she would be unable to attend further council meetings and accordingly would resign as a council member. Ron also stated that Lorrie Hayne had indicated she would be interested in serving on the council if there was a need. Galilee's Constitution provides that the church council can appoint members to fill open council positions until the next Annual Congregational Meeting. After discussion, Joan moved and Abe seconded, that we appoint Lorrie Hayne to fill the open council seat until January 2012. The council approved her appointment.

The council then discussed appointing council liaisons to the various committees. The following assignments were made:

Worship & Music	Lorrie Hayne
Community	Paula Brown and Karen Groebner
Property	Abe Watson and Ron Peterson
Staff	Ralph Baumgartner
Finance & Stewardship	Steve Groebner, Mary Lanoux and Carl Nelson
Mission	Joan Jarombek
Education/Youth	Elaine Mundt and Dan Simundson

Project Home: Pastor Ralph indicated that a meeting was held with Project Home representatives and Galilee Project Home planners in January and it was their recommendation that Galilee not host Project Home in 2011. Project Home representatives reported that finding churches to host Project Home was not an issue, but finding adequate numbers of volunteers was difficult. Since only 11 Galilee members volunteered in 2010, the consensus was to form an "Away Team" of Galilee members who are interested in volunteering and having them participate in Project Home at other locations. After discussion, Ron moved and Elaine seconded that Galilee not host Project Home in 2011. The council approved the motion.

Roof and Steeple: Ron reported that there were some issues with the shingles on the church building. The Property Committee will follow up to see what needs to be done and will also check to see if the roof is still under warranty.

Council Retreat: The Council Retreat will be held on February 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Peterson home. The theme of the retreat will be "Growth." We will discuss how we can grow in our relationship within Galilee, within our neighborhood and how we can grow our congregation in size. A potluck lunch will be served and a food sign-up sheet was circulated.

Coming Schedule:

Communion assistants are as follows:

February 13	Steve and Karen
February 20	Carl, Mary and Ron
February 27	None
March 6	Elaine and Dan

Pastor Ralph reiterated the importance of finding a substitute if you are not able to be at church on your scheduled days.

The next council meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on March 10. Dan will lead devotions on Luke 12 and Elaine will provide refreshments.

Upon motion which was duly seconded, the council approved adjournment at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl Nelson, Secretary

Pastor's Report
February 10, 2011

Congregational updates:

1. **Baptism** – Elizabeth Karen Maleitzke, the daughter of Jake and Jenny Maleitzke, on January 30, 2011.
2. **Project Home** – A group from Galilee, who had volunteered for a shift in December for Project Home, met with the Project Home staff on January 25th. It was decided at that meeting that Galilee should not host Project Home next December for lack of enough volunteers from Galilee. Instead, we will form an Away Team who will go together to another host church for a specific evening when volunteers are needed.
3. **Adult Forum** – I am the presenter at two forums. On Feb. 6th I did a book review on *The Strategically Small Church* by Brandon O'Brien. On Feb. 13th I will be giving a presentation on how love is depicted in the Bible, in anticipation of Valentine's Day.
4. **Lent** – The Lenten services will have as their theme "What's Up God?" A different ministry will be featured each Wednesday, and a representative of that ministry will answer these questions:
 - a. What is this ministry?
 - b. Why is this ministry important to me?
 - c. How is God present and active through this ministry?
 - d. What prayer concerns do you have in relation to this ministry?

Ash Wednesday is on March 9th, which is the beginning of Lent.

Action items:

1. **Conference Assemblies.** Galilee is in the North Central Conference (i.e., northern Ramsey Co. and southeastern Anoka Co.) of the Saint Paul Area Synod. Our Conference Assembly will meet this Saturday, February 12th from 8:30 am to Noon at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul. We should have representation at that meeting. Who is willing to go with me to that?

Information items:

1. **Vacation.** I will be gone from Friday, Feb. 18th through Tuesday, Feb. 22nd. Katherine and I will be skiing on the North Shore. Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley will preach and preside at communion on Feb. 20th, and Pastor Gary Dreier will step in for any emergencies if a pastor is sought.