

Galilee Evangelical Lutheran Church
Minutes of Congregational Council Meeting
January 12, 2012

Attendance:

Council members present: Pastor Ralph Baumgartner, Karen Groebner, Steve Groebner, Lorrie Hayne, Joan Jarombek, Mary Lanoux, Elaine Mundt, Carl Nelson, Ron Peterson and Dan Simundson. Council members absent: Paula Brown and Abe Watson

President Ron Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Joan led devotions on Luke 21.

Minutes of the December 13th, 2011 Council Meeting:

The Minutes of the December 13, 2011 congregational council meeting were reviewed. Upon a motion by Lorrie and a second by Karen, the congregational council approved the December minutes.

Pastor's Report:

Ralph distributed a report of his activities since the last council meeting; a copy of his report is attached as Exhibit A. Ralph reported that the theme for the 2012 Lenten season will be "You Shall Love the Lord Your God." He also indicated Padre Horacio Castillo of the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala will preach at the service this Sunday, January 15th as well as lead the Adult Forum.

Financial Secretary's Report:

Mary presented the Financial Secretary's Report for the month of December 2011. Regular offering for the month of December was \$18,404 compared to the budget of \$15,308. For the full year 2011 regular offering was \$163,427 compared to the budget of \$159,800. The total offering for the year was over \$186,000.

Treasurer's Report:

Steve presented the Treasurer's Reports for December 2011. In the general fund for the month of December regular and loose offering was \$3,100 above the budgeted amount, while total offerings received of \$18,404 were \$3,096 above budgeted levels. Expenses of \$14,289 were in line with the budget. This led to income exceeding revenues by \$4,448 for the month and \$3,426 for the full year. This surplus will be carried over to 2012.

After discussion and upon motion by Karen and a second by Carl, the council approved the Financial Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's Report.

Team Updates:

Education: Ron reported that the GLOW team has developed a plan for activities through September. He also reported there will be a youth bowling event on February 3rd and a Valentine's Party on February 8th.

Old Business:

2012 Budget Update: Carl distributed a copy of the updated 2012 proposed budget. While the proposed budget shows a deficit of \$1,971 for 2012, the general fund surplus carryover from 2011 of \$3,426 more than offsets the deficit. The result is a budgeted surplus of \$1,455 at the end of 2012. After discussion, Ron moved that the budget be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting

for approval. The motion was seconded by Ralph and unanimously approved by the council. Carl reminded the council members that the budget would be discussed at the January 22nd Adult Forum and council members should try and attend the Forum to answer any questions about their committee's budget.

New Business:

Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church: Ralph and Ron discussed a proposal from the Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church ("MFCLC") to use Galilee's facilities as a base for its ministry. For the last fifteen years, MFCLC has used the facilities at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church as their base. However, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church has recently notified MFCLC that, due to their space requirements, they will no longer be able to accommodate MFCLC after June 1, 2012. As a result, MFCLC is requesting Galilee consider allowing it to use our facilities. MFCLC has also made this request to other churches. A copy of their request is attached as Exhibit B.

The council discussed this matter and all agreed it would need to be carefully planned. It was suggested that a committee be formed to discuss the proposal with MFCLC. The council also agreed that the proposal should be discussed at the Annual Meeting so that we could solicit feedback from the entire congregation. Ron will place this item on the Annual Meeting agenda.

Annual Meeting Preparation and Nominating Committee: Ron reminded the council that the Annual Meeting will be on January 29th, immediately after the worship service. Ron also indicated that the Nominating Committee is seeking to fill four council seats. It includes the seats of Ron, Joan and Lorrie whose terms are expiring and the seat of Paula Brown who will be unable to serve her final year on the council. Thus far, two people, Barb Streng and Jim Zrust, have agreed to be nominated. The Nominating Committee is still seeking two additional nominees. Elaine indicated that while she is caring for her father, it is difficult for her to attend council meetings or participate in other church activities. After discussion she and the council agreed that a good way to proceed was to have Elaine take a leave of absence from the council and the council would not seek a nominee to take her position. If Elaine's situation changes during the upcoming year whereby she is able to attend council meetings, the council could re-appoint her as a council member at that time.

Financial Secretary: Mary indicated that she will be resigning as Financial Secretary effective at the Annual Meeting. Mary has served this position for over 40 years. The council thanked Mary for her faithful service over that period of time. Miriam Peterson, who has worked closely with Mary over the last year, has agreed to become Financial Secretary.

Next Congregational Council Meeting: The next congregational council meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2012. Dan will lead devotions on Luke 22 and Miriam will provide treats.

Coming Schedule:

Communion assistants are as follows:

January 15	Dan, Carl and Ron
January 22	Joan and Steve
January 29	Lorrie, Abe and Ron
February 5	Mary and Karen

Upon motion by Elaine, which was seconded by Carl, the council approved adjournment at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl Nelson
Secretary

Exhibit A

Pastor's Report January 12, 2012

Congregational updates:

1. **Christmas worship.** We had two services on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas Day, which was also a Sunday. Attendance was up slightly from last year. Thanks to the Altar Guild and musicians for making the services worshipful experiences.
2. **New Year's Eve gathering.** We had a small group of nine people present for games, snacks, and a devotional service. Despite some concerns about the falling snow outside, we did have fun until we ended at 10:00 pm.
3. **Voices of Hope; People of Faith public meeting.** This ISAIAH sponsored event took place at Galilee on Dec. 15th. The purpose was to grapple with the issues of inequity in our communities and begin to find solutions to those problems. Present at the meeting were Lisa Edstrom, Chair of the Roseville Area Public School Board, Dr. John Thein, Superintendent of Schools for Roseville Area Schools, and David Bartholomay, Mayor of Circle Pines. 19 members of Galilee attended the meeting.
4. **Breakfast Briefing.** On Tuesday, Jan. 10th, faith leaders from our region gathered at Galilee to hear Myron Orfield, Exec. Director of the Institute on Race and Poverty, and Jim Erkel, Minn. Center on Environmental Advocacy, speak on issues of demography and economic and social inequities in our region.
5. **GLOW.** This outreach ministry started up again on Jan. 11th. The theme of the Bible stories is "Journeys with Paul". I continue to be impressed and inspired by the commitment of the volunteers from the congregation who participate in this ministry.
6. **Next Sunday.** Padre Horacio Castillo, vice-president of the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala, or ILAG) will preach at Galilee on Sunday as well as speak at the adult forum.
7. **Midweek services in Lent.** The theme for this year's Lenten series of reflections during the midweek services is "You Shall Love the Lord Your God". I am looking for speakers for each of the Wednesdays in Lent after Ash Wednesday, which is Feb. 22nd.

Action items:

1. **Letter of Inquiry from Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church.** (see separate page)
2. **Conference Assemblies.** The North Central Conference of the Saint Paul Area Synod (basically northern Ramsey and southeastern Anoka Counties) will meet from 9:00 am to Noon on Saturday, Feb. 11th at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. (see the separate page for more information)

Information items:

- **Card from Cynthia Erickson.**

Exhibit B

From: Thomas Jianxian Xue, President of Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church
Pastor Shen Lin

To: Ron Peterson, President of Galilee Lutheran Church,

CC: Pastor Ralph Baumgartner,

Sent: January 6th, 2012

Subject: Inquiry to explore the possibility of Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church (MFCLC) using Galilee Lutheran Church as the base for its ministry

Dear Ron,

Greetings from brothers and sisters at Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church!

Please see the attached file on a brief history of MFCLC.

We first thank brother Steve Groebner. Without informing him in advance, during last year Christmas special, we arrived and received his warm welcome, Steve led us to tour Galilee Lutheran Church. Then, we thank Pastor Baumgartner. He was with us when he served as a Bishop associate at St. Paul Synod. Earlier, he and Pastor Lin had an initial conversation on the new site search for Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church, the only Lutheran and Chinese church in Minnesota and the vast area of Midwest. After an exhaustive research, our church new site search committee has decided to explore the possibility of using Galilee Lutheran Church as the base for our ministry.

We have been blessed by God and are very thankful, that in the past ten years, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church has graciously opened their facility free for us in Chinese ministry. Now, they need their space back, so we have to move out by June 1st, 2012. With our prayers, we are eager to know where will be our next site. We will be willing to pay rent. We are hoping to find an ELCA church we can build a longer term relationship and work together as mission partners for the ministry to spread gospel. Please take a look at our proposal. We pray and hope that you and your leaders can talk with us further on the possibility of MFCLC to use Galilee Lutheran Church.

Thomas Xue

Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church

MFCLC's space requirements and projected frequency of use of Galilee's facilities

1. (Absolutely need)

Sundays:

- A chapel (Sanctuary for worship) to seat 50 and above,
- A room for youth program,
- Two rooms for children program and nursery
- A room for fellowship.

Currently, we worship at 1:30 PM. However, there are always voices to worship in the morning. To worship in the morning, say at 11:15 AM, attendance could be better and we can forge better relationship with the host church.

2. (Desired)

Sundays:

- A room for choir practice
- A room for prayers.

Friday evenings:

- A room to seat at least 20 for campus Bible study group.

Storage space for a copier, a LCD projector, a screen, library books and a few cabinets.

3. (Optional)

A space for some members to pray daily or pray when they are in need, women-in-need ministry, senior citizen ministry, counseling, special events such as local mission partners meetings, St Paul and Minneapolis Synods Asian or Chinese gatherings.