

Maple Grove Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes January 10, 2008

Present: Rick Moulton, Deb Ellefson, Steve Hanson, Steve Wagner, Mike Benson, Peg Turnquist
Pastors: Pastor Durk and Pastor Chris joined us later in the meeting
Steering Committee: None present
Facilities Committee: None present
Guests: Mike Gronholm, Ken Turnquist, Jennifer Martinson, Sandy Hahn, Alysia Etse

Peg Turnquist opened with devotion and followed up with a prayer.

Guest Open Forum:

Alysia Etse provided an update on the InsideOut after school program. There are currently 9 children enrolled, with another interested. Many families didn't sign up because the program is a pilot. The kids like to be here and the parents like having them there. They have added a few more rules. The kids in the program are not members of the church. About half are single parent families. Financial viability – we are bringing in what we are spending. The kids attending are in 1st – 6th grade.

Mike Gronholm and Jennifer Martinson were also present, but had no questions.

Ken Turnquist:

Ken Turnquist came to the council with a proposal study the feasibility of forming an Academy of Music and the Arts at MGLC. He would like to establish a team under the Outreach Committee to move forward with the study. The study would define what an Academy of Music and the Arts could provide to the MGLC member and non-member community, determine what similar facilities currently exist within the MGLC area, and develop a plan to determine how MGLC could establish a Academy of Music and the Arts that would be self-sufficient. Steve Hanson motioned that we approve the formation of an Ad Hoc team to study the feasibility of forming an Academy of Music and the Arts. Steve Wagner seconded it. A comment was made to ensure that this fits into our current Mission Statement.

Presidents Update/Attendance Review:

We have two open council positions – Sue Raph resigned as secretary. Peg Turnquist will be the interim secretary until it is filled. Jon Brandon has also resigned as an at-large member due to his work hour change. He is unable to attend council. Sue's position is a full two years from May and Jon's is 1 year from May. Council can appoint these two positions. Please give any names to Deb Ellefson.

The nominating committee is beginning to look at positions that would be open. Rick would like to put a note in the Messenger regarding the positions open and to encourage people who are interested in being on council to put their name forward.

Rick would like all council to do temple talks on a monthly basis. This will give broader exposure to the council. Steve H. will do the temple talk this Sunday and it will address the open council positions and the annual meeting. In February it will be the Vision, which Peg or Laura could address.

Attendance: This year the Children's Christmas program was held during the service and last year separately. This was probably a reason attendance was slightly lower in 2007, and the program was counted towards attendance. The Christmas services had a little smaller attendance than last year.
Building: No news is good news. Steve Hanson is leading an exploratory team to discuss financing for the new sanctuary.

Budget Approval:

A motion was made by Steve Hanson and seconded by Steve Wagner to have the budget discussion be a closed council discussion. All approved.

A budget discussion was held. 2007 Revenue was \$532,000. Budgeted was \$575,000. We were \$43,000 short on revenue.

2008;

Roughly \$400,000 total pledges received.

Budget: \$549,000 in revenue

\$549,000 in expenses;

Personnel - \$437,000

Operations - \$72,000

Caring - \$2,000

Discipleship - \$13,000

Outreach - \$16,000

Worship - \$8,000

Parish Life - \$1,000

A motion was made by Steve Hanson and accepted by Steve Wagner to accept the budget. All approved.

Personnel Discussion: *Confidential*

The January 20th meeting will include the May minutes to approve, an agenda, which Rick will provide, a financial report will be provided by Steve Wagner and a Vision Handout, which Peg will provide.

A motion was made by Steve Hanson to re-open the council meeting. Deb Ellefson seconded and all approved.

Pastor Reports:

Jack Davidson, a member of our church is going into the seminary. We have to agree as a council to support him in this endeavor. A motion to do so was made by Steve Wagner and seconded by Steve Hanson. All approved.

Pastor Durk shared his report:

He had provided an InsideOut evaluation in his report, which he wants to provide a change to. He would like to continue to run the program as a pilot.

He discussed the Advent and Christmas Services. They are looking at some suggested changes for next year including adding the Cherub choir at 3:00 and special music at 5:00.

Carla-Ott Oldre will be recruiting and directing people for 6 Lenten dramas. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer.

Pr. Durk completed writing his staff reviews. Sandy has completed her staff reviews.

Pastoral Acts – 3 weddings, a funeral and no baptisms this month (which was unusual!)

He is very thankful that we have a signed purchase agreement for our property and remind everyone that we have huge challenges ahead of us to get out of ourselves and focus on the community. Pr. Durk passed out an article about church members – “renters” versus “owners”. We need to make sure we have more “owners” (more highly committed) than “renters” (worships occasionally and has ministry done for them.)

Pastor Chris shared her report:

Sunday is Walk Through the New Testament, with over 100+ participants.

Small group ministry is growing and thriving. Both the Women’s and Men’s retreats are full and other ministries are going very well. Small groups are a key, with connections being made and keeping people engaged with each other.

Small group training for all congregational leaders, committee chairs, teams and small groups will be held on Sunday Feb. 3 from 11-1.

New cross-country ski group started last week at Elm Creek, led by Mike Benson.

Many thanks to all groups for the very beautiful Christmas services – decorating was wonderful.

She led a service at Osseo Gardens/Berkshire Residence accompanied by Leia Skie and Heidi Schwedler, who provided wonderful music.

She presided at the funeral of Carol Bentley. Carol was the prayer chain coordinator for many years and served MGLC very faithfully.

We will be partnering with other churches in the Northwest Suburban Grief Coalition. MGLC would share turns with other churches to host grief support meetings.

Small Group Ministry Vision Update – Mike Benson:

There will be two leader meetings a year, to measure small group participation, what’s working, what’s not working and leader issues.

Worship Ministry Vision Update – Rick Moulton:

Kurt Schwedler will be convening a contemporary worship group to look at ways to re-vitalize the contemporary worship service.

Council will re-focus on the Vision plan at the February Meeting.

The Centered Life Book Study:

Due to the time, *The Centered Life* Book Study discussion was delayed until February. Please read Chapter 2 to discuss at the next meeting.

New Business:

There was no new business to report.

Approval of December Minutes:

Deb made the motion to accept and Steve Hanson seconded. All approved.

Meeting ended around 9:30 pm – closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Submitted in his service,

Peg Turnquist, acting council secretary

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 14th at 7:00 pm at MGLC. Steve Hanson has devotions.