

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
COUNCIL MEETING  
July 7, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barb Senness, Steve Nordness, Julie Schoenecker, Pastor Jon Buuck, Jean Eittreim, David Dubke, David Vander Haar, Karen Wilkinson, Nancy Rystrom, Stacy Delzer Martin, Ken Horstman.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Eric Berg, Jennifer Schneider-Bishop, Caroline Dunn

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Members gathered in the chapel to begin the meeting.

**II. WORSHIP:** Pastor Jon led the council in an Evening Prayer service and Barb Senness followed with devotions.

**III. ACTION ITEMS:**

**a) May Financial Report – Ken Horstman**

- May is the first month this year where income did not equal expenses.
- Comparing May 2008 to May 2007, income is a little above last year. Looking at year-to-date, income is about \$30,000 ahead of last year. This is due to the \$31,431 collected for the special appeal. Pledges increased about \$10,000 for the special appeal.
- Boards need to look at their budgets at their next meetings.
- During summer we typically receive less income.
- Nancy Rystrom asked which expenses stay consistent and which fluctuate. Ken replied that property expenses fluctuate with heating and cooling costs.

**msp Motion was made by Karen Wilkinson, seconded by Steve Nordness and passed to accept the May financial report.**

**b) Listening Posts – Barb Senness**

- At the June 23 congregational meeting, Roger Schwarze presented what the listeners heard at the May 28 and 29 “listening posts” conducted at Good Shepherd. He also made recommendations as to how Good Shepherd can move forward. One of his recommendations was to form a task force. He suggested we receive outside help.
- After the June 23 meeting, a group of members came together who want to help the congregation move forward. The idea behind the group was to include people who are not part of the current leadership. This group has the congregation’s best interests in mind and would like to get started quickly.

- Barb Senness stated that she believes that we can form a task force which represents the congregation without outside help. She asked the council to support the idea that there be a task force consisting of people from the council and the congregation. She mentioned that the vision plan will be a large part of what we look at going forward. Barb also pointed out that the issues facing Good Shepherd have been clearly defined in Roger Schwarze's report, so we need to get these issues on the table to discuss.
- David Vander Haar asked how big is the group and Barb replied that there are about 15 to 20 people and almost all members of the task force have been identified. The following names were presented:

John Mendesh  
 Julie Burrows  
 Rich Sykora  
 Jim and Joy Erickson  
 John and Lynn Hjelmeland  
 Doris Yock  
 Paul Grangaard  
 Dan Patton  
 Rich May  
 Kris Jank  
 Elaine Matyi  
 Herb Morgenthaler  
 B.K. Stein  
 Dave Anderson  
 Phil Davidson  
 Bob Johnson

The following names from the council were presented by Barb Senness:

Barb Senness  
 Steve Nordness  
 Dave Dubke  
 Nancy Rystrom

- Jean Eittreim asked if the group was well balanced age-wise and Karen Wilkinson pointed out that there were not many younger members. Karen also stated that her board said the group needed to be representative on all dimensions.
- Stacy Delzer Martin asked what if there are other people who would like to be members of the task force but say they didn't know about it. Barb replied that she will be writing something for the *Shepherd's Staff*, but also hoped that people will have confidence in the group who stepped up. Jean mentioned that it might feel to the congregation that this is an "inside" group and asked if the congregation can vote on the group. Pastor Jon suggested we give this task force a try and if it doesn't work the Bishop and Heather Hammond have a plan. David Vander Haar suggested that a couple more people could be added. They could contact Barb and then the group could decide.

- Karen Wilkinson asked if there is another way for the congregation to be involved and how does the congregation communicate with this group? Ken Horstman suggested that we let this group meet to discuss the issues brought about by the “Listening Posts” and have a point where the congregation hears what they found out.
- Pastor Jon stated that the council requests a report at the August meeting. Steve Nordness added that the Bishop and Heather Hammond require a report monthly from Good Shepherd. Barb mentioned that each piece of the report on the “Listening Posts” should have an answer to it and the updates will go directly to the congregation. Pastor Jon added that it is a positive thing that people want to work together to help heal the congregation.
- Karen Wilkinson brought up that there needs to be younger people on the task force, specifically those working with Shepherd’s Kingdom and Sunday school. It was pointed out that Dan Patton is involved with Shepherd’s Kingdom and Elaine Matyi teaches the 2 year old Sunday school class. Many on the council agreed that there needs to be appropriate balance of people and a timeline provided by the group. Stacy added that there needs to be people on this task force who do not have an opinion either way.
- Barb stated that if the council were to call the task force, it would not be perceived well, however, the council needs to be represented on the task force. Steve added that this group came forward voluntarily and the council endorses the formation of this group. He also added that we don’t want to wait. The congregation needs to see something done soon.

**msp Motion was made by Julie Schoenecker, seconded by Ken Horstman and passed to endorse the formation of a task force comprised of:**

**John Mendesh  
 Julie Burrows  
 Rich Sykora  
 Jim or Joy Erickson  
 John or Lynn Hjelmeland  
 Doris Yock  
 Paul Grangaard  
 Dan Patton  
 Rich May  
 Kris Jank  
 Elaine Matyi  
 Herb Morgethaler  
 B.K. Stein  
 Dave Anderson  
 Phil Davidson  
 Bob Johnson  
 Including these council members:  
 Barb Senness**

**Steve Nordness  
Dave Dubke  
Nancy Rystrom**

**This task force will report monthly to the congregation and council and present a timeline. They will address the six issues outlined in the “Listening Posts” Report from the June 23 congregational meeting. The council members are delegated the responsibility of designating additional members to round out the demographics.**

- b) Foundation request for \$3000 for start-up funds for Peace Keep Circle Groups at Washburn High School - Jean Ettoreim**
- The request for start-up funds for Peace Keep Circle Groups at Washburn High School was tabled at the May 19 council meeting because the council requested more information pertaining to the success of the program. Information had not been received in time for the June 16 meeting, so this request remained tabled.
  - The information received at this time was mainly examples of how similar programs have been successful. There were no statistics or numbers data to prove the success of this program.
  - Karen pointed out that the success of this program would be mainly dependent upon the leaders of the groups.

**mnp Motion was made by Jean Eittreim, seconded by David Vander Haar and passed to forward the request for \$3000 for start-up funds for Peace Keep Circle Groups at Washburn High School to the Foundation without recommendation.**

**V. CLOSING PRAYER:** Barb Senness closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

**NEXT MEETING: August 18, 2008  
Devotions: David Vander Haar, Board of Stewardship**