

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

January 12, 2005

Present were Administrator Craig Wiester, Marty Lewis-Hunstiger, Pastor Craig Shirley, Treasurer Norris Waalen, Sharla Aaseng, Kathy Knudson, Karen Lindesmith, Eric Ringham, Pastor Kwanza Yu, President Marty Dorow, Scott Hvizdos, President-Elect Joan Campbell, Past-President Thomas Frost, Rebecca Tetlie, and Jill Fedje.

Absent were Karmi Mattson and Jim Gamble.

President Marty Dorow started the meeting just after 7:00pm.

Eric Ringham, who provided the treats, led us in devotions.

We approved the minutes of the December meeting.

Lenten Meeting Schedule.

Noting that Ash Wednesday is February 9, President Marty Dorow suggested we move Lenten meetings from Wednesdays to Tuesdays during this time. We'll have Board of Commissioners' meetings on February 8 and March 8; all-commission nights on Tuesdays as well. Personnel and Executive meetings will also change in March. On February 2 the Personnel Committee will have a short meeting at 6:30; the Executive Committee will follow as usual. On March 1 Executive and Personnel will meet, time to be determined.

New Board Orientation.

President Marty Dorow stated we really need to have a Board orientation meeting. Last year we had it on a Friday night with a light supper. Rebecca Tetlie suggested a light dinner prior to the first new Board of Commissioners' meeting, which would be the one in March. We settled on a pancake supper on 6:00pm on Shrove Tuesday, February 8, 2005.

Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer Norris Waalen led us through the financial reports for the end of 2004. He talked about the balance sheet and the reason it has increased lately, namely the deposit of the Lilly Grant money which is earmarked for Pastor Kwanza Yu's sabbatical. We have about \$40,000 in reserve cash in the bank. All the rest of the money on the Balance Sheet is made up of funds reserved for specific projects. We had some discussion about how much is the minimum amount we should have in reserve.

Looking at the Profit & Loss for December, General Giving came up short, but Simply Giving was greater than expected. Holiday Giving greatly exceeded expectations. Expenses were somewhat over budget, so we ended up the month with a deficit. Looking at the complete year's report, however, we see revenues and expenses finished over budget resulting a net gain for the year of just over \$4,000.

The topic of confirmation came up; we had some discussion about whether we charge for this service and, if so, why.

We had a conversation about giving, giving units, how many pledge, and how many give.

Norry moved we accept his report. His motion was seconded and carried

Thrivent Proposal.

Pastor Craig Shirley has received a proposal from Thrivent that they set up a table on January 23, 2005 at which Thrivent members can make Tsunami contributions that Thrivent will then match. We decided we do not wish to have this kind of marketing in this church.

Craig Shirley went on to say that the Sexuality Report is coming out tomorrow and it will basically say things should be left as they are. There are 2 meetings tomorrow, January 13, 2005 at Central Lutheran Church to hear the report presented and to participate in discussion on it. Members around this table are welcome.

Pastor Kwanza Yu's Sabbatical.

Pastor Kwanza Yu reminded us that University Lutheran Church of Hope was awarded in excess of \$25,000 to support this congregation while she is away for her sabbatical. Her time away commences on April 11, right after the going-away fellowship meal on April 10, to which we are all invited. Kwanza will spend time in Korea and Japan. In an extraordinary honor, she has also been invited to lecture at Beijing University where over 600 Korean students are studying.

Past President and Personnel Chair Tom Frost mentioned that Diane Shallue has agreed to work full time during Kwanza's sabbatical to pick up some of her duties during that time.

Worship.

Worship Commissioner Eric Ringham mentioned that the Worship Renewing people are training the interviewing team as we speak. Eric has copies of the list of interviewers and interviewees as well as a list of questions that will be asked, essentially ways to explore why people started coming to this church and why they remain. Some discussion ensued.

Stewardship.

Stewardship Co-Commissioner Jill Fedje reported that Jim Gamble will continue with his position as Stewardship Co-Commissioner. Jill reports a healthy increase in pledging this year, even though the same number of giving units have pledged. The Stewardship Commission has no plans to pursue those who have not pledged. She feels we need to come up with a "stewardship philosophy", understanding the views of members of the congregation and/or members of the commission itself. Marty Dorow suggested a number of targeted times throughout the year to talk about stewardship, keeping it in front of the congregation all the time. The discussion continued.

Budget.

Treasurer Norris Waalen had some new handouts for everyone and also had them projected onto the big screen. He led us through a discussion on the process. In the wake of our strong finish to 2004, Norry suggests we seriously consider a larger increase than we had originally planned for our 2005 budget.

Marty Lewis-Hunstiger moved we keep 6.5% as a benevolence amount for 2005. The motion was seconded. Some discussion ensued. Jill reminded us that the in-kind support we give to Pease Academy should count for something. Pastor Craig Shirley related how, in conversations with Pastor Kwanza Yu, they have discussed encouraging members to give their charitable support to their church first. We talked about the current 6.5% for benevolences and if it should be increased. Craig Shirley related how our mission support pays for Lutheran schools, campus ministry, missionaries around the world, the new hymnal project, all that. An additional half-percent on our budget is only about \$2400. Craig Shirley encouraged us to discuss this at the annual meeting. The motion carried with one no-vote.

Tom Frost moved that the President of the Congregation bring a challenge to the Annual Meeting to increase our benevolence payments. This was seconded and carried.

Tom Frost moved we take the \$4,000 excess from 2004 and apply it to the 2005 budget. Recapping, the budget has a \$17,000 increase in revenue. We have a deficit budget of \$4,368, but will apply the \$4,000 from last year. We also may entertain increasing benevolences and we also likely have a capital campaign in 2005. This was seconded and carried. Norry further moved we balance the budget entirely with cash reserves, as this is just a small amount over the \$4,000 figure. This was seconded and carried as well.

Norry asked people to consider where we're spending our money as well. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve this budget for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting on February 6, 2005.

We had some discussion about the frustrations of the perpetually flat budgets.

PEASE task force.

President Marty Dorow reported that there has been no meeting of the Pease task force as there is little else we can do without the congregation giving us a go-ahead. She clarified that this body has approved proceeding with this project. Marty plans to make a very nice presentation at the annual meeting with Pease headmaster John Howitz and members of the task force telling the story. A member from the Pease board will be there as well. Marty has asked the Trust Board for \$10,000 to do exploratory work with an architect. Responding to a query from Jill Fedje, Marty affirmed that they have considered asking Pease to put up some of that seed money. Marty encouraged everyone to attend the annual meeting.

Marty called our attention to the draft of the agenda for the annual meeting, printed on the back of the agenda for this meeting. She solicits comments on the topics and the sequence of events.

Administrator Craig Wiester reminded members of the Board that:

1. Reports for the annual meeting are due one week from today, or January 19, 2005;
2. He would like to have freshened-up web pages for all Commissions;
3. Board and Staff reports are required monthly and many are remiss; and
4. The Board Handbook is available to all on the web site.

We adjourned the meeting sometime after 9:00pm.