

**Minutes of the McFarland Lutheran Church Council**  
**Monday, April 26, 2010**

**Members Present:** Sandy Chalmers; Kristine Bell; Karen Emerson; Bob Kalhagen; Dennis Knutson; Jerry Hrovat; Linda Langel; Dick Moen; Tom Scharine; Sarah Schutt; Marilyn Vandeberg; Menghort Thikim; Pastor Tews      **Guests:** Amy Lawrence, CLM Board President

1. **Call to Order** - Sandy Chalmers called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2. **Devotion**

Karen Emerson shared thoughts about our flaws and the hidden value we all possess in order to make a positive contribution to others in our lives.

3. **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

Pastor Tews offered an opening prayer and Sandy welcomed everyone to our meeting.

4. **Replacement of CLM / MLC Van**

Amy Lawrence presented a report from the taskforce charged with proposing how to replace the church van. The report included funding options, supplier, and procedures that would be followed.

Moved by Sara Schutt; seconded by Kris Bell to accept the taskforce recommendations for replacement of the van.

Moved by Dennis Knutson to amend the motion to include "at a cost not to exceed \$16,000".  
Amendment Carried and the original motion passed as amended.

5. **Approval of February Minutes**

Changes were proposed in the description of the space needs / sanctuary remodeling and in other items found under New Business. Moved by Jerry Hrovat; seconded by Karen Emerson to approve the minutes of March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting as corrected. Motion Carried.

6. **Reports**

- **Jerry Hrovat** - Reported that the stewardship committee's work is going well and that the plans for the 2010 ministry fair are almost complete.
- **Kristine Bell** - Reported that bids are being sought for replacement of the front sidewalk.
- **Linda Langel** - The "Natural Church Development" taskforce has been ended. Activities and programs of this taskforce will be re-assigned to the "Outreach Ministry" (Evangelism) and "Member Care Ministry" (Befriender's).
- **Sarah Schutt** - Reported that the CLM budget is being finalized and enrollment has increased for the summer and fall. There was a staff recognition event to celebrate their many accomplishments over the past year.
- **Marilyn Vandeberg** - The worship committee will continue their work to monitor and enhance Sunday worship services.
- **Karen Emerson** - Twenty-seven individuals have been invited to the first meeting of the Youth Board that will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

- **Dennis Knutson** - Reviewed and answered questions about the current budget report that was distributed to council members. The 2010 - 2011 budget proposal is almost finalized and will be ready for review at the May meeting. Council members agreed that it would be good to have a reserve fund available that would be used to balance our cash flow throughout the year in place of having to draw on our line of credit.
- **Menghort Thikim** - The October celebration of the Global Mission program continues to be developed. In May, Pastor Boymah from Libia will visit our church and be available to meet with members of our congregation.
- **Pastor Tews**
  - Many comments were received as a result of publishing a summary of the council meeting as "Minutes In Seconds". This will continue to be published, about a week after each meeting.
  - A staff appreciation luncheon was held. It was a celebration and recognition of their efforts and dedication in supporting the mission of our church.
  - The staff is planning a special luncheon in order to recognize the contributions that Meg Nielsen has made to both their activities and the programs of our church.
  - Council approval was given to a proposed listing in the local "Yellow Pages" that will include information about McFarland Lutheran Church and Child Life Ministries.
  - Discussion was held about how to best recognize Meg's departure as an "Associate In Ministry" at our church.
    - Moved by Kris Bell; seconded by Marilyn Vandeberg to sponsor a meal on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> that will include a program that will highlight her many accomplishments and contributions to McFarland Lutheran Church over the past many years. Motion Carried.

A planning committee will be created to organize this event. Sandy Chalmers will contact individuals to assist in planning this celebration. Marilyn Vandeberg will represent the council.

## 7. Status Reports / Announcements

- a) Council/Budget Forums - Council members were reminded that the next forum is scheduled for Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- b) Nominations Committee - Council members were encouraged to suggest the names of individuals who the nomination committee should consider when selecting candidates for election to the church council. The committee has been formed and will begin meeting soon.
- c) Synod Assembly - Sandy Chalmers and Sarah Schutt will be attending the Synod Assembly, along with Pastor Tews. One additional delegate position is available.
- d) Sanctuary - The study committee will have their first meeting in the next couple of weeks.
- e) Organist/Pianist - Glenn Nielsen has been asked to suggest individuals who might be able to fill this position.

## 8. New Business

### a. Pastor Finney's Housing Allowance

Moved by Kris Bell; seconded by Karen Emerson that up to 100% of the salary for Pastor Finney is designated as his housing allowance. Motion Carried.

## **9. Executive Session**

Moved by Karen Emerson; seconded by Linda Langel to adjourn into executive session. Motion Carried.

A report was presented from the personnel committee dealing with changes in staffing, job duties and hours of employment.

Moved by Dick Moen; seconded by Bob Kalhagen that the terms of employment for the Youth Ministries Coordinator be approved as proposed by the personnel committee. Motion carried. It was noted that this change has been discussed with Pastor Tews and the individual involved. Both support this changes as presented and are looking forward to a summer filled with activities for our youth.

Council supports keeping funding for all positions at 100 % of the salary level as found in the 2008 - 2009 budget. This decision will impact the 2010 - 2011 budget in two ways:

First: The special appeal for the proposed 10% reduction in last years budget will no longer be necessary. Staff salaries will remain un-changed for the next fiscal year.

Second: The funding for positions that are not filled at the start of the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year will be available to pay salaries of current staff who may need to increase their hours or for individuals who will be hired in the future. These changes will be made as needs arise.

As we move forward in the next fiscal year, the council will be researching the needs of McFarland Lutheran Church and developing the ideal staffing configuration to best meet the expectation of our members.

## **10. Announcements**

- ✓ Annual meeting will be held Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will begin after a potluck lunch.
- ✓ Council members were reminded of the many up-coming events at MLC and encouraged to attend.

## **11. Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

Moved by Dennis Knutson; seconded by Linda Langel to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Sandy Chalmers adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Tom Scharine, Secretary**