

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
May 13, 2010**

In attendance: Sally Reeb, Don Maurer, Pastor Tim Kuenzli, Brian Meinardi, Renita Hillis, Carol Low, Julie Everhart, Mike Renner, Darby Graves, Charlie Cline, Al Nelson, Lynn Chrisman, and Rick Wuerth.

Excused: Beth Bolyard, Jerry Kisner, and Dave Zimmer.

Opening: President Sally Reeb called the meeting to order. Rick Wuerth offered a devotion relating to Ascension Day.

Housekeeping: Sally reported that no one is responsible for church closing for the time being, since Grace is worshipping after us on Sundays. Carol Low is responsible for devotions at our next meeting.

Old Business: Council reviewed draft minutes from the April 15, 2010 meeting. Several corrections were incorporated into the minutes and upon motion of Mike Renner, seconded by Darby Graves, council unanimously approved the minutes as corrected.

New Business

Financial Secretary's/Treasurers Report: Financial Secretary Julie Everhart reported that the church had cash receipts through April 2010. This is about 3% or \$23,000 below budget. This is about the same as last month. We are basically holding our own on receipts. We have one good week and then go flat.

Treasurer Brian Meinardi reported that we are pretty much breaking even on a cash basis. Year to date we are down about \$21,000. Most of variance is attributable to the HVAC work we were forced to do during the last two months. We incurred unbudgeted expenses of \$9,000 and \$5,000. We had no significant non-budget expenditures during April. At the end of the month, we had \$38,000 in our checking account and a total of approximately \$100,000 in unrestricted funds.

Council discussed whether the church should establish a capital reserve account under next year's budget addressing the issues of an aging facility. Pastor Tim agreed to organize a committee to study the matter and to make recommendations to council. We have a number of church members with considerable experience in construction and the building trades who are possible candidates for the committee. Council members believe that the congregation will provide financial support for a capital reserve once we explain the need and propose a reasonable plan.

Brian also reported that he and others including Adam Ferne have developed an investment policy for endowment funds. The policy allocates funds among ELCA pooled funds and cash. He will bring a copy of the policy to next month's council meeting.

Upon motion of Lynn Chrisman, seconded by Al Nelson, council unanimously approved the Financial Secretary's and Treasures reports.

Round Table:

Lynn Chrisman (Youth Directions) reported that the youth group discussed the situation at Jacob's Porch (OSU Campus Ministry) and decided to provide some assistance in order to help replace property stolen in a recent theft. The youth group is obviously not in a position to provide material financial support for the ministry's ongoing needs. Lynn also noted that we need to remind church members to use the paper recycling dumpsters on our parking lot to maximize the amount paid to the youth. Pastor Tim and Lynn discussed working up a bit for Sunday services to promote the recycling program.

Rick Wuerth (Tanzania Committee) reported that committee projects are going very well. Bishop Gulle's visit was a success thanks to the efforts of many people including Darby Grave and the Congregational Life Committee. Fund raising for the well project is proceeding. About s\$1,970 of the remaining \$3,000 has been collected. Pastor Tim indicated that one of our congregation members is interested in making a final contribution to complete fund raising after our appeal to the general congregation is done. We shall continue fund raising for another week to give other church members the opportunity to participate in the project.

Al Nelson (Property Committee). Nothing big broke last month. Al asked council members and other in the congregation to report work that needed to be done to him. Renita Hillis mentioned that the pew in the bell choir area is not attached to the floor. Al agreed to check into it.

Carol Low (Evangelism Committee) reported that her committee had recently hosted new member receptions and was now planning the 4th of July ice cream social. Committee members were talking to Tim Curie about arranging for a band to play at the event. Hopefully, the band will be able to perform outside this year.

Renita Hillis (Worship and Music). She is arranging a meeting with Pastor Tim and Terry to discuss future services.

Mike Renner (Christian Education) reported that that Bibles are now in the pews. His committee was able to complete the "Bibles in the Pews" project without using general church funds. The Bibles were purchased entirely with money from a memorial gift and special donations from the congregation. Mike reminded everyone to bring their Bibles to church on Sunday. Services will include hands on Bible reading by the entire congregation.

Charlie Cline (CD project and Stewardship). There will be a special CD release concert on Sunday evening. The concert will feature many of the numbers on the CD. He hopes attendance is good and that the CD sells well. He also suggested that the church purchase a number of CDs for the library and future distribution. For instance, the church might wish to distributed copies of the CD to first time visitors. Council members concurred in the idea with the thought that we acquire 100 CDs at a discounted price of \$4.00 apiece. Pastor Tim felt that it would be appropriate to use memorial funds for the purchase. He agreed to discuss this with families whose members are memorialized by several funds.

The Stewardship Committee met on May 12 to begin work on the 2010 stewardship campaign. John and Susan Ference have recently joined the Committee. Members are developing materials for publication in The Messenger and The Lights. The campaign will include a special effort directed toward encouraging volunteerism. Charlie will report more next month.

Beth Boyland (Preschool Board) was unable to attend the meeting. Sally gave a report on her behalf. Enrollments for next fall are still low. Beth and other folks involved with the preschool are working on ideas to increase enrollment. Pastor Mark Nodo has interviewed all preschool staff and board members. He will be meeting with them to give them a snapshot of what they have told him about issues in the program. Pastor Mark's goal is to assist preschool staff and board members in developing channels of communication to resolve problems in the program.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tim has exchanged further communications with Pastor Jay Gamelin of Jacob's Porch. He distributed a recent e-mail from Pastor Jay elaborating upon his vision for the ministry and the issues which it faces. Pastor Tim reiterated his comments from last month's meeting that campus ministries, similar to outdoor ministries, are problematic because they are seldom, if ever, self-sustaining. In the face of reduced financial support to and from synods, there are a number of questions about the viability of such ministries without a regional/multi-congregational partnership. Pastor Bill McKee of the Southern Ohio Synod will be joining us at our next council meeting to discuss the relationship of the synod and various ministries in today's changing environment. This may give us a context for deciding what kind of support we can give to Jacob's Porch.

Pastor Carl Rayburn has obtained a part-time job (20 hours per week) as the interim pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Obetz. He will continue to assist at Epiphany one day a week. Pastor Tim reports that his assistance has been most welcome. Pastor Rayburn's position at Zion will likely be temporary. Pastor Tim understands that the Zion congregation is considering a vote to withdraw from the ELCA in the near future because of the ordination of homosexual clergy controversy.

The Visioning Team has several new members, now including Don Maquer, Sally Reeb, Steve DeNunzio, Nannette Spence, Robin Saionzkowski, Will Reed, Jack and Lindsey Matthews, Lisa Phillips, Tom Compton and Pastor Tim. The team had a good meeting with Michael Rensch on Tuesday, May 11. The team will be developing two questions relating to the future of Epiphany to put to the congregation -- probably next fall. Tim said that one of the interesting things about the process is that there are no presupposed questions.

Pastor Brad Binau will be at Epiphany on Tuesday evening, May 18 to discuss The Haiti *Timoun* Foundation. There was a lot of enthusiasm for the program after Pastor Binau's presentation on Sunday, April 11. It will be interesting to learn whether members of Epiphany become actively involved with the foundation after the May 18 meeting.

Closing: President Sally Reeb closed the meeting by leading the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Rick Wuerth
Recording Secretary