

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
March 12, 2011**

In Attendance: Don Maurer, Charlie Cline, Renita Hillis, Darby Graves, Beth Bolyard, Lynn Chrisman, Brian Meinardi, Pastor Tim Kuenzli, Carol Law, Craig Werner, Kris Huffman, Rachel Arps, Mike Poyer, Rick Wuerth, and Jerry Kisner.

Excused: Mike Renner.

Devotion: Kris Huffman read a devotional entitled, " What Does it Mean to Love?"

Housekeeping: Don Maurer reported that Rachel Arps, Kris Huffman, and he will attend the leadership workshop. Don will be out of town on April 14 and Kris will chair the April Council meeting.

Meeting Minutes: Council reviewed the draft minutes of the February meeting. One correction was noted. Upon motion of Carol Low, seconded by Charlie Cline, Council unanimously approved the minutes.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports: Rachel Arps reported that we had total unrestricted receipts of \$64,780 during February. We had additional receipts of \$4,171 in restricted funds for a grand total of \$68,951. This puts us about 9% or \$9,695 above budget. This is encouraging, but we did receive some large annual gifts during February which distort the picture a little. Our surplus will probably flatten over the coming months.

Brian Meinardi reported that we have \$45,798 in checking and a total of \$89,700 in unrestricted funds in all accounts. We are \$7,800 in the black in terms of year to date expenditures versus receipts. We have \$125,517 in restricted funds which is about the same as last month. Expenditures in excess of \$500 were in line with expectations. Major disbursements were for LOMA Day Camp (\$3,536) and the proceeds from Souper Bowl Sunday (\$1,282). There was no change in the Gifts & Furnishing Account.

Upon Motion of Charlie Cline, seconded by Lynn Chrisman, Council unanimously approved Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's reports.

Preschool Sign Update: Beth Bolyard and Pastor Tim have been working with the City of Pickerington on the sign issue. It appears the City will issue a permit allowing us to erect a permanent sign for the preschool. Beth, Tim and others are working on the design. Jeff Baker has agreed to provide the brick. Beth hopes to use money in the Sharing the Light Fund allocated to the preschool to pay for construction. The sign will be located in the area where the Grace Lutheran Church is presently. Pastor Tim has advised Grace representatives that their sign will have to come down in the near future. They do not have a problem with this. Both Beth and Tim said that City officials have been very helpful in working with them.

50th Celebration Luncheons: Darby Graves reported that the Social Services Committee will provide support for the luncheon following next Sunday's (March 13) 50th Celebration event. The Youth will assist for the luncheon following the April 16 event. Darby expects the April luncheon to be very well attended because Pastor Dave Shugert will be the guest speaker.

Pastor Topics: Pastor Tim reported that the 50th Anniversary Committee is considering an appeal to the congregation and friends of Epiphany inviting them to make special gifts to the church commemorating our 50th anniversary. Their thought is that funds raised from the appeal would be used to pay down our mortgage debt, reducing the amortization period of the loan and, perhaps, setting the stage for a major capital campaign. At this time, Committee members are unsure what they will ultimately recommend.

Worship & Music has identified several well qualified candidates to replace Jen and Adam as music worship leaders for the 11:00 am contemporary service. The core guitar players intend to remain and are concerned that the new music leader maintains the high standard which Jen and Adam set. The Committee is determining how to conduct interviews and/or auditions for candidates and may need additional funds in the range of \$500 to bring candidates in from out of town to work with band members. After discussion of how to fund the expense, if it becomes necessary to do so, Charlie Cline moved that Council authorize the expenditure with money taken first from \$150 restricted gift dedicated to

music and then from a \$550 designated for the Cherub Choir. Kris Huffman seconded the motion which Council then unanimously approved.

Pastor Tim distributed a letter from Minister of Education, Jeff Mitchell, indicating that his wife Sharla is exploring a professional opportunity in Colorado. This may take the whole family to Colorado in the near future and Jeff wanted to alert the congregation and Council to the situation.

Update on Congregational Meeting Actions: Don Maurer confirmed that Tom Stultz will join Karen Peterson and John Pysarchuk as a member of our Audit Committee. The 2010 Annual Report is complete and available to congregation members. Pastor Tim will announce this next Sunday.

Committee Roundtable:

Treasurer: Brian Meinardi reported that Pastor Carl has requested that his part-time salary from Epiphany be characterized as "housing allowance" for tax purposes. As a church, we have fairly broad latitude in doing this under IRS regulations. Upon Brian's motion, seconded by Charlie Cline, Council approved Pastor Carl's request.

Worship & Music: Committee members continue to read "In God's Presence" about maintaining the Holy in worship services. The Committee will have the ministry fair display in April and members will meet to decide what they want to do. Music is going well, Renita said she has received compliments from a number of congregation members.

Tanzania: Pastor Tim said that he has received confirmation that funds for the well building project have been forwarded by the Synod and received in Tanzania.

Preschool: Beth Bolyard reported that Preschool Sunday went very well. Attendance was good. A lot of Preschool children and parents attended the reception following the service. The Preschool requested that families attending the reception bring cookies. As a consequence, the refrigerator in the kitchen is filled with extra cookies.

Beth also reported the Preschool held an open house last week. The traffic was good and as a consequence, registrations are ahead of where they were last year at this time. The situation with the Pickerington Public Schools may be a driver for increased enrollment in our pre-K program as more parents hold children back because it appears that public school kindergarten will be restricted to a half day program.

Social Services: Jerry Kisner reported the Committee's ministry fair display was well received with a several congregations members expressing surprise at the number and diversity of the Committee's programs.

Evangelism: Carol low reported that a new members class will be starting soon. The Committee has scheduled a new members reception for May 1, 2011.

Stewardship: Charlie Cline and Pastor Tim are scheduled to meet on March 23 to discuss the 2011 stewardship program.

Farewell Concert: Charlie also reported that he is working on organizing a Farewell Concert for Jen and Adam. A possible date is May 21, but this needs to be worked out with the rest of the band.

Closing: In closing, Don Maurer led Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Wuerth
Recording Secretary