

**Draft
Epiphany Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
November 10, 2011**

In attendance: Don Maurer, Brian Meinardi, Mike Poyer, Renita Hillis, Beth Bolyard, Kris Huffman, Mike Renner and Rick Wuerth.

Excused: Pastor Tim Kuenzli, Craig Werner, Rachel Arps, Darby Graves, Lynn Chrisman, Charlie Cline, Jerry Kisner and Carol Low.

Guests: Greg Rich (Treasurer Nominee), Jerry Blaskie (Financial Secretary Appointee), Joyce Partyka (MIC student), Bob Nowak (MIC student), Linda Barry, Ruth Schmitz, Phil Rosile, Barb Johnson and Peggy Moore (Memorial Garden Committee).

Call to Order: Don Maurer called the meeting to order and offered a devotional reading.

House Keeping:

Nominating Committee: Don reported that the Nominating Committee is hard at work and making progress in finding candidates for Council positions which open in 2012.

2012 Nominating Committee: Under the church Constitution, each year's Nominating Committee should consist of two church members at large and two former Church Council members who completed their terms of office in the preceding year. Don reported that Lynn Chrisman and he would serve on the committee as the two former Council members. The two members at large are to be determined.

Annual Meeting Agenda: Don circulated a draft agenda for our Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for December 11, 2011 at 12:15 pm. The agenda, together with a notice of the meeting, needs to be delivered to congregation members at least 11 days prior to the meeting. The draft agenda appeared to be in good order subject to finalization of amounts under the proposed 2012 Budget and completion of the slate of Council nominees.

Meeting Minutes: Council reviewed and approved the minutes for its October meeting.

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports: Don Maurer and Brian Meinardi introduced Greg Rich, who is nominated to replace Brian as Treasurer after expiration of his term, and Jerry Blaskie, who will be appointed Financial Secretary to complete Rachel Arps' term.

Brian Meinardi delivered the Treasurer's and financial Secretary's reports. During October, we received \$64,027 in budgeted or unrestricted funds. We received \$9,136 in non-budgeted or restricted funds for total receipts of \$73,164. Year to date, our receipts are under budget by \$4,716 compared with \$73,686 under budget in 2010.

Expenditures for budgeted line items during October were \$56,406 resulting in net positive cash flow of \$7,621. Year to date, our expenditures are under budget by \$14,670. This is in part due to timing, but also to a variance in budget versus actual payments under the pastor's payroll account. At the time the 2010 budget was approved, Council believed that it would become necessary for the Church to provide family medical coverage for Pastor Tim and his wife at some time during 2010. Fortunately, this did not occur. At the end of October, we had \$74,735 in checking. We had \$97,648 of unrestricted funds and \$147,804 restricted funds for total operating cash of \$245,453. In addition, we had \$99,758 of non-operating cash in the National Youth Gathering Account and the Epiphany Mission Endowment Fund.

Upon motion of Renita Hills, seconded by Mike Poyer, Council unanimously approved the reports of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

2012 Budget: Mike Poyer presented a draft of the proposed 2012 budget. Unless committees submitted updated budget requests, their budgets were assumed to be the same as 2011. The draft retained a benevolence budget of 11.25% and increased overall spending slightly from \$716,101 to \$718,098. Council members discussed the line items in some detail. Significant changes included reduction of line item #5 (Debt Reduction) by \$3,500 to reflect that there is no feasibility study contemplated for 2012; increase of line items #7 (Pastor's Salary) and #14 (Other Payroll) by 3%;

addition of \$2, 500 to line item #20 (Congregational Life) to fund the new Pause program; and total increase of \$2,000 at the request of the Youth Committee for the line item #22 (Youth Mission Trip and VBS) and line item #27 (Bus/ Transportation). In discussing the proposed 3% raises in pastoral and staff salaries, Council noted that there were no increases last year and that the proposed increase averaged 1.5% per year over a two year period. This is less than inflation.

Our congregation has a long tradition of benevolence. The general consensus was that we should keep benevolence at a minimum of 11.25%. Mike Renner suggested that we should challenge the congregation to increase benevolence to 11.5%. Council members also noted that that several of the committees which have not submitted revised budget requests, including the Property Committee, may need budget increases and that it would be appropriate to provide the Executive Committee with some latitude in formulating the final proposed budget for submission to the congregation. Mike Renner suggested that the overall 2012 budget be increased to \$725,000.

Upon motion of Mike Renner, seconded by Brian Meinardi, Council unanimously approved the proposed budget increasing benevolence to 11.5% and increasing the total proposed operating budget to \$725,000 with instructions to the Executive Committee to make final adjustments to line items.

Memorial Garden: The memorial Garden Committee (Linda Barry, Ruth Schmitz, Phil Rosile, Barb Johnson and Peggy Moore) presented a comprehensive progress report including several design layouts being considered, tentative thoughts of planting materials and possible dates for the commencement of construction. Linda Barry reported that the Committee learned that there is considerable interest among church members for including a columbarium in the garden. Linda also reported that she learned from Keith Ebright who works at Spence Funeral Home that 65% of families they serve are electing cremation. The Committee is considering several design options for a columbarium. Columbarium niches would be available for purchase by Church members. Linda estimates that the price would be in the range of \$2,000 per family niche. The cost for using the sprinkle garden would be around \$150 - \$200.

The Committee believes the Memorial Garden/Columbarium will be self-funding , in part, because the Committee has identified a benefactor who is willing to match gifts to a certain level. The Committee distributed a draft brochure promoting the project to congregation members and requested permission to start fund raising.

Don Maurer thanked the Committee members and they left the meeting. After discussion, Kris Huffman moved that Council grant permission to the Memorial Garden Committee to begin fund raising. Mike Renner seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved the motion. Don will report the results of the vote to Linda Barry.

Deferred Items: The agenda items covering discussion of Chapter 2 of "A New and Right Spirit: Creating an Authentic Church in A Consumer Culture" and Pastor Topic's were deferred to the December meeting. Discussion of a building use policy/protocol was deferred until the January meeting.

Round Table:

Preschool: Beth Bolyard reported that the Preschool is doing well. The program loses some students, but gains others. Responding to a question, Beth noted that the program does have some scholarship money available with which it attempts to assist needy students.

Christian Education: Mike Renner said that he is pleased with participation in adult education during the Pause program. He believes that the Epiphany U. concept is working well and that his successor as Chairperson of Christian Education should be encouraged to continue to develop the concept.

Adjournment: Don Maurer led Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Wuerth
Recording Secretary

