

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 20, 2011
7:10 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Council Members in attendance: Stephanie Alstead, Mark Thompson (arrived at 7:40), Ron Struss, Mike Tjaden, Jan Johnshoy, Rhonda Tjaden, Kari Moeller, Ray Peterson, Lee English (left at 8:15), Peg Wangensteen and Claire Taylor-Sherman.

Council Members absent. Darlene Hagquist, Paul Mattessich, Jon Severson, Chase Hippen and Bill Short.

Staff: Pastor Cindy, Russ Carlson.

Guests: Sue Klevan

1. President Stephanie Alstead opened the meeting.
2. Pastor Cindy led the group in devotion and prayer prior to the start of business.
3. Tonight's agenda approved as amended.
4. The minutes of the September 2011 Council Meeting were approved as amended.
5. Financial Report: The balance in the Capital Campaign Fund is at a low point and money from other than current contributions to the Fund **may** be needed to keep the mortgage payments current. The Financial Committee proposed that the Council authorize a "loan" from undesignated bequests to the Capital Campaign Fund to maintain mortgage payments as current, if necessary, through the end of 2011. The undesignated bequests fund must be reimbursed. M/S/C.

The Treasurer presented the financial statements for the month of September 2011 and year-to-date through September 2011. M/S/C to approve the report as presented.

6. Old Business: Personnel Committee: Slate presented for membership: Elaine Jaeger, Peggy Johnson, Tari Johnson and Mark Vavrek, with Jenny Otteson to serve in an advisory capacity. M/S/C to approve the slate as presented. Committee's first meeting to be held within the next two weeks.
7. New Business: Jan Johnshoy reported on the Worship & Music Committee's search for a new organist. The Committee has interviewed and auditioned 4 candidates. The Committee asked for Council approval to make an offer to their candidate of choice, subject to Pastor Cindy's approval after meeting the candidate, at a salary in line with AGO (American Guild of Organist's) guidelines for an organist with the candidate's education and experience.
8. Update on the process for Visioning: Pastor Cindy has visited with pastors at other congregations that have worked through their own visioning process. In part based on a reference from St. Anthony Park Lutheran, Pastor Cindy met with Laura Park of Unity Consulting, a consulting firm that can help guide the Council through ILC's planned Visioning process. Greg Knopff, liaison between the Transition Team and the Council for this process,

shared a copy of the congregation's profile (created during ILC's recent transition period) with Ms. Park. The amount and type of data the Transition Team collected is just what Unity Consulting would have collected as a first step of Visioning, so we are already on our way.

9. Committee Reports:

- a. Finance: As approved earlier in the year, the church's money market account has been moved to Associated Bank. The November Council meeting will focus on budgeting; each committee should review their plans and financial needs for 2012 and be prepared to work on their budgets during November's Council meeting.
- b. Membership & Evangelism: A new membership Sunday is planned for later in November.
- c. Property: Lee English shared a letter the church just received from the Macalester Groveland Community Council ("MGCC") regarding its search for a new, neighborhood compost drop-off site. Lee will take the letter to committee first for further consideration before making any recommendation to the Council as to the MGCC's request that ILC agree to be the drop-off site.
- d. Social Justice: See Pastor's Report.
- e. Youth:
 - * 4 - 5 youth have registered for the ELCA Youth Gathering to be held next summer in New Orleans. We may join with another congregation to save money on transporting attendees. At least 2 chaperones (1 male and 1 female) will be needed for this trip.
 - * An outing at a "haunted hayride" is planned for the end of October.
 - * Youth will participate in the Rake-a-thon, also later in October.
 - * Next big event will be the 30-hour famine, which takes place November 4th and 5th. There is a service component to this event and the youth may volunteer at Lyngblomsten – details still being worked out. Volunteers are being sought for this event to act as chaperones.
 - * Has asked the Nominating Committee to help it recruit new members for the Youth Committee.
- f. Stewardship: As we should all know, we are in the middle of the annual Stewardship Initiative. "Estimate of Giving" Sunday is October 30. The campaign wrap-up is starting to take form with some ideas of working with other committees and task forces to create a video that captures ILC's story of its various and many ministries.
- g. Worship & Music: see New Business - the for a new organist.
- h. Education & Literature: The first session of Adult Forum's Hunger Series, the topic for each of the three "fifth Sundays" occurring during the program year, will be October 30. The committee is discussing alternative options to the standard coffee hour – to encourage members to reflect on what it is like to suffer hunger and a lack of food, e.g., serving saltines to remind members that not everyone has enough to eat.
- i. Communications Task Force: No report.

10. Pastor Cindy:

- a. We will join the congregations of Olivet (a UCC church) and Pilgrim Lutheran for a Thanksgiving eve service. The service will be held at Olivet (near Merriam Park).
- b. LASA’s recommended plan for ILC’s benevolence giving: The split of benevolence dollars – which typically total 10% of the budget for any given year - are to be approved by the Council and congregation as part of the budgeting process and annual meeting on a “go-forward” basis. This will allow ILC to give to the designees on a regular basis. Recognizing that specific recipients and amounts for 2011 were not actively considered during last year’s budgeting process, LASA presented the following recommendations for this year:

St. Paul Area Synod and ELCA -	\$19,508.00
St. Paul Area Council of Churches -	\$ 2,000.00
Plymouth Christian Youth Center -	\$ 668.00
Lyngblomsten Center -	\$ 1,000.00
Keystone Community Services -	\$ 500.00 (includes Meals on Wheels)
LSS – Rezek House -	\$ 2,500.00
LSS – General -	\$ 2,500.00
Loaves & Fishes -	<u>\$ 3,444.00</u>
	\$32, 120.00
Flea Market proceeds -	<u>6,000.00</u>
Total Benevolence	\$38,120.00

M/S/C (8 yes; 1 no and 1 abstention). It was also moved that benevolence payments be made in arrears on a quarterly basis. M/S/C.

- c. Visioning process – see item 8 above.

10. Closing prayer and then M/S/C to adjourn: 9:00 p.m.

Next all-committee night: Thursday, November 3 @ 6:30 p.m.
 Next Council meeting: Tuesday, November 15 @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Claire Taylor-Sherman, Council Secretary¹

¹ Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are a family of believers growing in Christ, **WELCOMING** all God’s children, joyfully **WORSHIPPING** God through Word and Sacrament, and **SERVING** our neighbors with love.