

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church – Milton, Pennsylvania**  
**December 1, 2009**

**Our Mission:**

We are called by God to follow Christ's example and teachings  
through worshiping, witnessing, learning, supporting one another, and reaching out to others.

**WE ARE CALLED BY GOD**

The meeting began with reading of the mission statement, lighting of the candle, and prayer.

In attendance were: Rose Bolich, Stephanie Byers, Rose Deaner, Kay Dunn, Don Fisher, Ruth Greenly, Pastor Pat Pittsnogle, Donna Spear, Rachael Spear, Julia Spear, Tim Walsh, and Roger Watts. Excused from tonight's meeting: Dale Bender, Stephen Moll

**TO FOLLOW CHRIST'S EXAMPLE AND TEACHINGS**

Devotions were given by Kay Dunn. Joys and concerns were shared.

**THROUGH WORSHIPING**

Donna Spear will lead January council meeting devotions.

Worship and Music Report: Decorating the church is at 9 a.m. Saturday, December 5. Christmas Eve service is at 7 p.m. December 24. There will not be a half hour of special music at the beginning of the Christmas Eve service. However, the service will include some special music during service (brass group, vocal solo & organ/piano duet) as well as a congregational carol sing during communion. Christmas Day service is at 10 a.m. on December 25 with quiet communion in the parlor. Lessons & Carols service is on December 27 during normal worship times. No Wednesday worship December 23 and 30. Bulletin additions will include adding Sunday school attendance, church attendance, offerings and special gifts to bulletin. Pastor is working on plan for Epiphany service with a possibility of a baptism. During the January 31 service there will be a hunger drama as a sermon with the Land & Seasons liturgy. We will collect two non-perishable food items for a special children's food offering and have children do the collection during children's sermon. Ash Wednesday services are February 17 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Transfiguration Sunday is February 14. Everybody should bring a houseplant to transfigure the church. During the Lenten season Bishop Dreissen will offer "What it means to be a Lutheran" series at St John's Potts Grove, Follmer Lutheran, St John's Delaware Run, Christ Milton, Trinity Milton. The second server does not need to sit at altar and may sit with family etc, and be robed prior to communion. There will be no December worship and music meeting. The next worship and music meeting is at 7 p.m. on January 25, 2010.

The Pastor's report for November was reviewed and accepted via email. Rose Bolich motioned to apply for \$1,000 for the new missionaries from endowment funding, pending approval by endowment. Tim Walsh seconded. All approved.

**WITNESSING**

The Witness group did not meet. Rose Bolich discussed the possibility of advertising our Christmas services in the local newspapers. Council decided not to advertise.

**LEARNING**

The annual Advent Pageant is December 6. Steph Byers and Rose Deaner will donate the chicken from Big T for the potluck dinner.

## **SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER**

Minutes from the November Council meeting were reviewed and approved via email.

Minutes from the November Congregation Meeting were reviewed and approved via email with the following corrections: . . . a motion was made to add \$1,600 for local benevolences and \$1,475 for Christian Education back into the 2010 budget bringing the total budget to \$148,075.

Council reviewed the 2010 budget with changes as a result of the congregational meeting.

Rose Deaner provided a minimal treasurer's report as she is continuing to organize our financial information as interim treasurer. Council reviewed the report.

Endowment Committee: There will be an end of year meeting to review two endowment requests.

Pastor Pat requested \$1,200 for Weis cards and Walmart cards for needy local families. Council approved the request pending endowment committee approval. Steph Byers motioned and Kay Dunn seconded.

Property Report: The spouting project is just about finished. The project bid was \$2800. The final cost was \$2,720. Roger will have information about the old baptismal font repairs at the next meeting. Council discussed the use of facilities by outside organizations. It was determined that Little League will be permitted to continuing using our building, but will use the back entrance by the pavilion to enter the building. And, they will use the pavilion for distributing their fundraiser items. Council also discussed whether or not to keep the old copier on premises in case we need it. It was decided not to keep it, as the maintenance agreement with the new copier provides for repair or loaner copier within four hours of reporting a problem.

Staff Support: Ed Coup is interested in joining staff support ministry group.

Finance Committee Report: Met November 24 at 6:30. All old finance records are shredded and recycled. The Finance Committee would like to make a recommendation to Council to adopt the revised Audit Committee instructions as Continuing Resolution C13.03.A09. Steph Byers seconded the adoption of the audit committee instructions. All approved. There was discussion of how local benevolences are paid. Current practice has been to pay local and synod benevolences as the percentage of total offerings received for the year, not the budgeted amount. Finance Committee recommends that this practice be abolished and pay the full budgeted amount for 2009 and future years. The amounts designated for Habitat and Pastor's Discretionary Fund for 2009 are recommended to be eliminated. Kay Dunn seconded this recommendation and all approved. Council discussed the proposed amendment to organist agreement. Rose Bolich motioned to hand the organist agreement to staff support with a second by Kay Dunn.

## **AND REACHING OUT TO OTHERS**

From Social Ministry: THANK YOU for your support of the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. We still need canned vegetables for the Christmas baskets. Please sign up to deliver poinsettias and cards to the homebound.

Other business: Several Council members suggested changing meeting start time to 6:30 for 2010. All agreed. Council approved via email prior to the congregation meeting to accept Roger Watts as a new council member. This is because his nomination and acceptance came after the November council meeting.

## **SENDING FOR MISSION**

Pastor Pat offered prayers for special concerns. All participated in the Lord's Prayer and singing of the Doxology.

Agenda items for the January 5 meeting are due by Sunday, January 1.

Reminder: The January 5, 2010, meeting will be at 6:30 in the church parlor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Spear, Secretary