

**Hosanna Lutheran Church  
Council of Ministries Minutes  
January 4th, 2006**

**Taken and compiled by Mark Sherak  
{Pre-approval}**

**Attendance:** Deb Willingham, Mark Sherak, Pastor Greg, Don Loptien, Mary Gleeson, Jude Donovan, Guy Larson, Chris Saul, Marge Drew, Aimee Dierking, Steve Winkler, John Hoener, Willa Bradshaw, Margo Pasha.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. Jude opened the meeting with prayer.

**President's Comments:**

Jude opened the meeting by introducing the new members of the Church Council of Ministries for 2006. Guy Larson – President-elect. Guy's duties will include guiding the financial ministry team by having discussions and bringing proposals to the Council.

Chris Saul – Education Ministry Chair and Pre-School teacher. Jude made sure to point out that the Education Board and the Pre-school are not the same ministry. The Pre-school is an independent corporation under Hosanna. Chris will be in charge of overseeing Vacation Bible School and Education programs.

Marge Drew – Financial Secretary. Marge is taking over from Deb Willingham after 10+ years. Deb will stay on to close out the 2005 books and train Marge in her new position.

Jude expressed her excitement and gratitude for the reports that each ministry e-mails on a monthly basis. She reminded each ministry to save the monthly reports for compiling into their Annual reports in October. She said she received many accolades for the last annual report being so thorough.

Introductions were made all around the table with each person identifying themselves and the ministry positions they hold.

**Minutes:** The minutes for the November 2, 2005 Council Minutes were mailed out in November. Minutes were approved with no corrections.

**Pastors Report:** (See handout) Pastor handed out a written synopsis of his report making sure to point out the action items of needing computer help with the office e-mail system and the Shepherds Staff software. The office e-mail system runs extremely slow and the Shepherds Staff software has yet to be fully implemented. Looking ahead Pastor made note of 3 upcoming events.

Spiritual Gifts – A congregational retreat running from January through March and beyond. This will be the first round of an ongoing program.

Lenten Journey – The theme for Lenten Journey is "The Promises of God – the Beatitudes". The program will be based upon the promises of the Beatitudes.

50 Days Ablaze - A mission outreach campaign with daily devotional materials that correspond to the synod's LCMS World Mission's God's Grace. The synod's goals include reaching 10 million people by 2012. This program will be 3-tiered including daily devotions, small group bible studies, and worship services. This program follows the 40 Days of Purpose concept.

Pastor mentioned that the Lenten soup suppers schedule will have to be arranged at the next Council meeting. He also noted that he will be taking his regular vacation in March but no dates have been set yet.

**PMC Report:**

John Hoener said he had no real updates but that the elders are busy finishing transitions. He said they now have 15 elders in the PMC.

## **Requested Reports:**

Aimee Dierking, the Pre-school director, told the Council that she had a meeting with M.J. Pirk and Glory Schuetz regarding proposed changes for the Pre-school program (see handout). The proposed changes include adding a toddler care program and time changes for the 2006-2007 school year.

Toddler Care Services - Aimee pointed out that only one in six programs in our part of town offer toddler care services and that she had to turn away prospects this year who expressed that need. Aimee outlined changes needed to establish this kind of program including:

- A dedicated toddler room
- Changes to the playground – a 4 foot chain link divider fence
- A Name change to Hosanna Lutheran Church Early Learning Center
- Redo our licenses to become a learning center
- Have a Health Department and Fire Safety check done.

Time changes for 2006-2007 school year –

- Start time for the Pre-school change to 9:30 a.m...
- Keep mixed age 2 ½ hour Pre-school program
- Start 5 hour program

The new 5-hour program would run from 9:30 to 2:30. Aimee included a new pricing structure for the new program based on others nearby. Parents would be required to supply lunches. The toddler program would accommodate 10 to 12 children and would require one more lead teacher on staff. No additional playground equipment would be needed. Aimee is convinced that this program will increase cash flow and will help fill an urgent community need.

Pastor moved that we accept Aimee's report and that she move ahead at the discretion of the School board. He thanked Aimee and Chris for a well-presented report.

## **Old Business**

**Council Reorganization Proposal:** Jude reminded the Council that the 1<sup>st</sup> coordinated every-other-month meetings of the ministry teams will happen on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Instead of a regular monthly Council meeting, all ministry teams are encouraged to meet, alternating with the Church Council meetings every other month. Jude handed out a worksheet with some ideas on "being a leader – not a boss" that includes skills for ministry and the 4 R's for conducting effective meetings. Hopefully this will encourage ministries to have a plan, come together in fellowship, come up with ideas on how to do ministry, and divide up responsibilities. She pointed out that this supports the small group concept to help people feel they have a place, a home, and don't feel like strangers.

Pastor made sure to point out that groups shouldn't meet just for the sake of meeting. He asked that the groups be well organized and proposed fellowship and community.

Jude said that groups can meet at the church or elsewhere. She would like to try to continue to get monthly e-mailed reports from each ministry.

Don Loptien of Witness and Outreach spoke about the church sign on Belleview. He met with Pr. Greg noting that there are no times for the Saturday services posted and no room to add that information. He is also concerned that we be able to post our summer schedule when the time comes, we will have our website address on the sign, and add other activities such as new member classes. Guy Larson recommended that we add a metal sign(s) to the top or bottom with information that doesn't change. Margo Pasha pointed out that we still have \$535.00 earmarked in the restricted accounts for the sign. Pastor Greg said he'd also like to have banners made up for special services/occasions.

## New Business

**Funding Task Force: Youth Worker** - Jude announced that she has appointed a Youth Worker Funding Task Force and has approached 4 people to develop a method for pursuing a new youth worker. This could involve a kickoff collection and an ongoing monthly collection to pay that worker.

Stephen Winkler said he is looking for someone to replace him as the outside facilities coordinator. He will stay on until that position is filled.

Chris Saul pointed out that our ad in the Courier does not include a mention of Sunday school. Pastor will talk to them.

Jude recommended that we should use the spiritual gifts survey instead of a ministry fair to generate new workers and fill open positions and needs in the church. She would like to use the congregational retreat to help fill positions. Pastor mentioned that we have a handbook on disc that shows the opportunities and ministry descriptions in the church. He said we should approach Brad Gillund about the time and talent surveys.

Guy Larson would like to have the messages that are being shown on the projection screen before the Praise band service, extended to the Saturday evening and 8:00 am services. He will contact Larry Boeding to make the arrangements.

### Treasurer's Report:

Margo Pasha reported that her report, sent out via e-mail shows we ended up about \$9000.00 in the red for 2005. She mentioned overall givings were up in December. Margo pointed out that we still have a \$23,000.00 slush fund to borrow from the road-widening project. Margo also noted that there is a \$417.00 recognition fund from May 11, 2003 that she can't track down what it was for.

- ❖ Pastor Greg said he would like to revisit the bylaws to have any funds that sit for 5 years unclaimed to be reallocated to the general fund. He also pointed out that the Council doesn't need to have all financial nuances reported to them. There is now a Financial Committee that has been delegated to take care of these matters.

### Calendar

- January 28: Congregational Retreat: Jude passed around a sign up sheet for the congregational retreat and encouraged all Council members to attend. She also passed out packets for each person attending to fill out. The retreat will be held in the church fellowship hall from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The afternoon will consist of a connect-the-dots session concentrating on combining mission and ministry. She encourages all members of the congregation to attend.
- **February 1<sup>st</sup>: Ministry teams meet** – (see Council Reorganization Proposal in Old Business).

### Open Concerns

- **Security: Re-key the building** - An estimate has been requested from a church member to re-key the outside entrances to the church building due to security concerns. A discussion ensued and it was decided to find out what the cost would be and who should have keys to the building.
- **Better cleaning of building** - will be addressed with the current crew to tighten up cleaning services.

### Prayer Concerns

Prayer concerns go out to:

- ❖ Susanne Cadley – pain management following fusion surgery.
- ❖ Willa Bradshaw's sister-in-law and brother back together after New Orleans hurricane.
- ❖ Willa Bradshaw's niece – undergoing 2<sup>nd</sup> hip replacement surgery on 1/16.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm. Pastor Greg closed in prayer.