

Luther Park Annual Meeting of the Corporation
January 22nd, 2011
Luther Park Bible Camp
Dining Hall

Called to order by President Steve Kolden at 10:11am

Gratitude to those present for traveling in frigid weather

Devotion led by Rev. Craig Corbin:

song learned in 1975 within his experience as a camp counselor;

reveals the power and influence of camp ministry in our lives

theme focused on the power of songs within camp ministry and how songs allow other to learn scripture and share great experiences

Introductions of staff persons present: Dave and Diana Thompson; Rev. Craig Corbin (interim director); Brianna Kunkel; Heidi in the kitchen

Approval of the agenda:

Steve commented on the recognized lengthy agenda and the pursuit of being mindful of time constraints;

Introduction of the board members:

Rev. Jim Page; Brenda Thalacker; Don Moats; Rev. Joel Olsen; Tom Wagener; Chris Kamrath; Rev. Benjamin Ahles-Iverson; Dale Kringle;

Amanda Rasner (not present-death in family); Rev. Leila Haight (in South America); Bill Jenson (open position on the board)

Motion to approve the agenda:

Harrison from the Shepherd of the Hill; Gloria Wagener-Immanuel Strum; passed

Minutes of meeting on January 23rd, 2010;

Rev. Shelly Schultz from United Lutheran; Darren Faulk; passed

Reports:

Board of Directors, Board President, Steve Kolden:

Change has been evident at camp where we have been moving forward while learning from mistakes yet celebrating progress. Program has Considerable time has been devoted to the financial elements and positive trends have been witnessed this past year relative to expenses. We have paid \$18,000 on interest relative to our debt in 2010 which is a key stepping stone of positive movement in ministry. Steve referred to the Strategic Planning process with Terry Gilbertson as the primary guide in this process. The goal of having a summary of this plan for this annual meeting was put into perspective based on Terry's feedback. It is a slow process and needs additional time before finalizing. Emphasis was placed in Luther Park being an extension to congregation's ministry rather than an 'add on' where this enhances partnerships in ministry.

Summary of the two task forces that were assembled. The Constitution/Bylaws task force did wonderful work. The Camp Policy Task Force has not met for three months and this piece of administration needs to be finalized. Steve shared that his job change led him away from focused time with this task force.

The communication between Luther Park and Luther Point have been previously through the executive teams. This will be expanded to include the board of directors of each camp which will begin with both boards meeting on February 19th at Luther Park.

Steve thanked the board of directors for their commitment. Gratitude was shared to the Luther Park staff that lead various ministry efforts. A word of thanks to both Steve and Diana.

Rev. Craig Corbin

2010 was a challenging year where the most significant challenge was addressing the accounting system of Luther Park. In essence, this effort of re-doing it required significant time but was necessary. The feedback from the audit report in December included all is looking very well, organized, and efficient.

Congregation support was very strong in 2010 and Craig shared a strong word of ‘thank you’ for faithful giving among all congregations. The support and passion of this ministry is positive both in the financial realm and general recognition.

Craig is making a deliberate effort in connecting with pastors amid conference gatherings. The key question that will provide a framework for discussion, “What role can Luther Park have in the ministry of your congregation?”

Referral was made to the decline in camper attendance within 2010 which was evident at Luther Park but also throughout other camps in the country.

Gratitude shared to the staff with special mention of the challenges within the past year. We’ve “been around the block once now” and this obviously is a positive notion as we look ahead to 2011 since key elements of administration/ministry have been addressed. Craig mentioned the importance of improving key property issues such as replacing the original carpet in the Covenant Center (nearly 40 years old!), etc.

Overall, the primary mission remains the same as we join together in faithfully sharing that mission! Craig thanked all present for the opportunity to share this feedback.

Program Coordinator and Program Report-Brianna Kunkel

Brianna’s voice was ‘weaker’ given her many recent conversations in meeting with camp staff across Minnesota. She will begin recruiting summer staff in the next two weeks. A media specialist will be introduced this summer to allow families to connect with their son/daughter throughout the week they are present. A special mention referred to the importance of having a camp chaplain present this year to provide spiritual care for summer staff. Two new programs were introduced this summer which was great to see (Keepers of the Earth and Drumming and Strumming). The Trading Spaces program was expanded in 2010. Brianna highlighted the 2011 Retreat Ministry Opportunities. There is a correction to Steve Kolden’s report is that there will be a national curriculum for 2012 that can be purchased from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Referral was made to the Luther Park Ambassador program. The summer programs are available and the Luther Park web site has been newly formatted. Question from Rev. Barbara Koch was “how does the cost for Luther Park compare other camps that Brianna is aware of?” Brianna shared that average cost is around \$300 for other camps. Craig shared details of costs relative to Luther Park, Sugar Creek and Luther Point while emphasizing key discounts available.

Question: “How many summer staff are needed for the summer?”

Brianna’s answer was that this is based on the number of ‘early bird’ registrations. It is generally assumed that this upcoming summer we will need about 35 summer staff.

Comment was shared that Brianna did a wonderful job with the ladies retreat within the week of August 15th-19th.

Question: "Do you staff the adult groups that are present?"

Brianna's answer is that a retreat host is always present. This piece depends on the needs of the group.

Property Report:

Don Moats shared a summary of the projects within 2010. A word of gratitude to Grace Lutheran in Eau Claire to helping fund a contractor; the WELCA groups helped fund the new mattresses that were needed; Our Savior's in Chippewa Falls will be doing considerable work in replacing the A-frame at Luther Woods.

Don referred to the various projects in his report though did not describe each project for sake of time. Steve shared a word of gratitude to Dave (staff) as well for his great work in coordinating volunteers.

Finance Report

Brenda shared a humorous insight that a motion should be made that no one, other than the treasurer, is allowed to talk about the finances.

She referred to her report and discussed the obvious financial shortfall while emphasizing the various cost-saving efforts that had been made within 2010. The key piece is that mindful of the cost-saving efforts that have been made, an increase in camper attendance would be greatly significant to our overall financial status.

Steve mentioned that a key piece of saving dollars and utilizing our staff is putting various printed material on-line.

Unfinished Business

None was raised

Questions for the board

Question from Rev. Les Walck: "Could more information be shared on the proposal of constitution's status relative to baptized membership."

Steve elaborated on a brief history of how this administrative piece was developed. A key frustration was reporting various congregations being 'member congregations' while various congregations have not been active. This will allow for effective reporting. In addition, this piece would encourage member congregations to receive a reduced rate for their campers that participate.

Les Walck shared that legislating financial giving does not work though he understands the need of building up the financial basis of the camp. There are concerns that congregations are struggling as well. Can we change the constitution on this piece?

Rev. Mike Wollman shared that the first reading of the constitution was last November at Trinity in Eau Claire. The by-laws require only one reading and approval. The constitution review for today will be devoted to the reading of the constitution and by-laws. Motions for amendments will be accepted at that time. Rev. Walck is referring to by-law language in B1.03.02 and B1.03.03. Mike shared that this language will be addressed after lunch.

New Business:

Endowment Fund Committee Member Election:

Arvid Solsaa's position is completed at this time and he is willing to continue in this role. Arvid shared a summary of the Endowment Fund Committee's responsibility. This committee is separate from the Board of Directors.

Motion for Arvid to continue in this role: Darren Faulk; seconded by Don Moats; passed.

Election of Board Members:

Cluster 1:

Clergy: Pastor Burt Schultz, Hope and Glen Flora, Ladysmith (three year term)

Lay: Cheri Sorensen-Rice Lake (one year term)

Cluster II: three year term

Lay: Lynn Harrison, Shepherd of the Hill, Elk Mound (t

Kay Moen-Urseth, New Hope, Sand Creek/Pine Creek

Cluster III:

Clergy: Pastor Jim Page, Trinity, Eau Claire

Cluster IV:

Lay: Michele Ziegeweid, Christ Lutheran, Arcadia (three year term)

Motion to accept the ballot as presented; motion by Don Moats; second by Rev. Joel Olsen; passed

Introductions of nominees:

Lynn Harrison (member at Shepherd of the Hill since the early 1970's, church council and various other board experiences)

Kay Moen-Urseth (involved within various church ministries through the years, president of the Barron County Habitat for Humanity, has various family experiences with Luther Park)

Cheri Sorensen (substitute teacher, great admiration for camp ministry, husband is Russ Sorensen-senior pastor at Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake)

Announcement of this vote will be shared by the nominating committee

Nominating Committee 2012

Nominating Committee for 2012: Pastor Ben, Pastor Joel, Cheri Sorensen, Steve Kolden, Rev. Shelly Schultz (cluster two),

Motion for these individuals and board to appoint: Motion to accept by Rev. Ben-Ahles-Iverson, second by Dale Kringle; passed.

Proposed Budget will be addressed after the lunch break

Lunch break at 12:00 noon

Newly elected board members (began at 12:45pm):

Kay Moen-Urseth

Rev. Bert Schultz

Proposed Budget for 2011:

In reviewing page F-10, Steve elaborated that the board is proposing an unbalanced budget that is reflective of debt from 2010 being carried into 2011, etc.

Question raised regarding the \$88,087 debt amount for 2011; answer referred to the Sterling Bank loan of \$56,538 being included in overall amount.

Additional comments were made regarding finances and ministry from Rev. Craig Corbin

Question raised regarding the board's intention in increasing board revenue. Steve referred to the increase from actual while being a decrease from the 2010 budget.

Question raised regarding the agreement with Luther Point and Luther Park removing some of the Luther Point positions here at Luther Park. Steve elaborated on what has been achieved together while seeking to reduce, over time, the hours worked from those at Luther Point. Referral was made to the Executive Committees meeting quarterly relative to staff time studies, etc.

Question regarding the Luther Point management agreement and the presence of Luther Point staff at Luther Park. This then led to the question regarding the overall fundraising efforts and who is the leader on this front.

Craig...we can do postcards, letters, advocates...but we cannot do it by ourselves. We need 'your' voice in promoting camp and connecting with others.

Darren Faulk question regarding what is the line item designated to revenue from outside groups? This is noted in 'Retreat Revenue'.

How do we get the word out regarding Luther Park to outside groups? Steve shared that word of mouth is essential. Craig shared that nearly 75% of those who retreat at camp are non-Lutherans.

Question raised in where was the synod financial contribution shown now that their office is at camp? Steve referred to the proper page number relative to 'other revenue'.

Steve...are people comfortable with the proposed revenue budget being higher than actual revenue received in 2010?

Motion by Lynn Harrison (Elk Mound); seconded Rev. Mike Wollman; passed. One opposition (1:32pm)

New Business Continued: Constitution Revisions

Motion to adopt the proposed constitution: Rev. Joel Olsen, Second by Vicki; constitution is on the floor for discussion.

Rev. Mike Wollman shared in oversight of this portion of the meeting.

Motion to amend chapter two by striking C2.01;

Motion by Rosemary Johnson; second by Nick Sovacool; discussion over this amendment: is another meeting needed to approve the constitution with all these amendments? This constitution did not state that both readings require identical constitutions.

Rev. Craig Corbin shared that our non-profit license falls under the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and possibly jeopardize our 501c(3) status.

Paul Tobiason: It is wise to do some changes, approve, and ratify even though it is not stated in the old constitution.

Barb Solsaa: I would be opposed to this amendment as a ministry partner of the ELCA.

Paul Tobiason: call to question;

Delete C2.01 voted by a show of hands; 3 in support; remainder opposed; motion failed.

Chapter 3:

Three types of full membership: those in membership within the ELCA; members not in ELCA but were grandfathered in; any congregation that is in full communion within the ELCA

Rev. Les Walck:

C3.01.01/C3.01.02;C3/02:

Proposed amendment: Remove 'in good standing as of the January 23, 2010 corporate annual meeting' since there was no good standing standard in 2010. There was a standard but it was really low.

Second: Dick Klabunde;

Discussion: This list of 2010 is simply a list but no element of 'good standing' was not present.

Removing this referral would have no impact.

Call to question: delete 'good standing' in C3.01.01; motion passed (16 opposed)

Rev. Les Walck:

C3.01.02:

"Requirements for member congregations..." will be replaced by "Guidelines for member congregations...will be described in the by-laws." And striking the "congregations in good standing..."

Motion: by Rev. Les Walck, seconded by Rosemary Johnson.

Discussion: Tom Wagener suggested that guidelines allows for permissive language rather than established framework.

Rev. Bert Schultz referred to the 24th Amendment in that no poll tax would hinder people from voting/participating. He moved to strike any language that any member of this corporation to lose its ability to vote in these annual meetings.

Comment made regarding small congregations who simply do not have kids to send to camp given the are simply not in the congregation given the small nature of the congregation.

Rev. Curt Rohland: Withdraw for Rev. Les Walck to remove his motion and replace with "Membership requirements are described in the bylaws." This moves everything to the by-laws.

Motion by Rev. Les Walck agreed, second by Rosemary Johnson. (**sentence three**)

"Membership requirements are described in the bylaws." To the second sentence revision by adding this and deleting "Requirements for member...". Motion carried (three opposed)

Motion by Rev. Les Walck; second by Rev. Barb Koch to remove "in good standing" from the last sentence of C3.01.02.

Discussion from Arvid Solsaa stating that he was fine with the 'good standing' language since congregations need to own their responsibility regarding the camp.

Rev. Curt Rohland: comment referring that 'in good standing' needs to be described in the by laws.

Call to question: Barb Koch; sentence four remove “in good standing”, motion passed.

C3.01.02

Dick Klabunde motion to remove the ‘full communion of the ELCA’ to include other congregations; seconded by Vicki Fankhauser; from the first sentence
Arvid Solsaa, there needs to be guidelines to the membership.
Motion failed...the presented language will remain

C3.02

There not any proposed amendments
Question by Arvid is what entails associate membership compared to membership?
This relates to the ability to vote at an annual meeting

C3.03: no amendments

C3.04: no amendments

C4.01: no amendments

C5.01: no amendments

C6.01:

Change final sentence by changing the period to a comma and stating the following.
Amendment to add “delegates present, pursuant to applicable state and federal laws.”
Motion by Dick Klabunde, second by Brenda Thalacker; passed

C7.01: no amendments

C7.02: Tom Wagener motion to change ‘member in good standing’ to ‘full membership’ through out the remainder of this document.
Distinction between full membership and associate membership (philosophical); distinction with good standing refers to fiscal support. Not seconded.

Break for board members to confer on the dynamics of the constitution mindful of the time factor today.

Steve Kolden reconvened the meeting.

There will be another full meeting of the board to assess the constitution and then move on to the bylaws.

Meetings:

C7.01/C7.04 language will be updated

Any proposed amendments to chapter 7

Chapter 8: no amendments

Chapter 9: no amendments

Chapter 10: no amendments

Chapter 11:

Steve Kolden request to entertain a motion to replace ‘Revised’ with ‘most current’; Motion by Curt Rohland, seconded by Rev. Mike Wollman; passed.

Chapter 12: no amendments

Rev. Curt Rohland proposed that the original constitution with revisions be given to all to allow for discerning review.

Motion by Tom Wagener to table the constitution until the next meeting of the corporation as determined by the board of directors; seconded by Rev. Joel Olsen. Passed. (3:15pm)

Bylaws also tabled.

Next annual meeting will be January 21, 2012 at 10:00am at Luther Park.

Rev. Craig Corbin referred to pages 29-34 to elaborate on the La Crosse Area Synod congregations getting credited for their support. This was not done in the past. The time of doing this was done to elaborate on congregations being recognized.

Thank you to Barb Solsaa for all to share their gratitude towards the efforts and time given to the Board of Directors.

Adjournment

Motion from Rev. Joel Olsen, second by Dale Kringle; passed. (3:20pm)

Benediction

Given by Rev. Curt Rohland