

Minutes for Luther Park Board of Directors Meeting
September 17, 2009, at Trinity Lutheran, Eau Claire

Board Members In Attendance: Pastor Leila (Lee) Haight, Brenda Thalacker, Don Moats, Amanda Rasner, Steve Kolden, Eileen Christopherson, JoDeen Forsyth, Pastor Michael Wollman, Bill Jenson, Dale Kringle, and Pastor Jim Page

Members Absent: Pastor John Ashland.

Ex-Oficio Members absent: Mary Toufar, Sherm Toufar

Guests Present: Rick Lambert, Pastor Craig Corbin

Call to order and devotions

Snacks were provided by Pr Lee. Pr Jim gave the devotions and prayer and President Steve called the meeting to order at 7:15.

Approval of Minutes

A **motion** to approve the minutes of the August 20 meeting was made by Pr Mike with a second by Don. Motion carried.

Board Bylaws / Policy Review--None at this meeting

Directors' Reports

Sherm & Mary – none

Steve will go to LP about 3:30 tomorrow, Sept. 18, which is Mary and Sherm's last day.

Introduction of Pastor Craig Corbin

Steve introduced Pr Craig Corbin to the board members who have not met him before. Steve stated that the transition team is pleased to be working with Luther Point and have been impressed with Pr Craig's leadership.

Pr Craig spoke briefly. He and the Luther Point staff are excited for the future. They see our partnership as a proactive move. There has been a lot of talk about the future of camp ministries, because many are in financial trouble. Recently, a camp in South Carolina and a Florida camp have joined efforts much like Luther Park and Luther Point are doing. The best future for outdoor ministries may be to work together. We know it will take time and lots of work and we are optimistic.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee—

Brenda and Rick gave a summary of the August 31, 2009 financial report. Our year-to-date gross income stands at minus 29,818.57 and cash in the bank at minus 85,302.98. Our total debt stands at \$558,322.44.

A motion by Brenda, second by Pr Mike that Pr Craig Corbin and the finance committee be authorized to negotiate a loan or line of credit from a lending institution or a church foundation not to exceed \$100,000. Motion passed.

Brenda **moved**, Dale seconded that a credit card with a limit of not more than \$10,000 be obtained for Luther Park with Dave Dobbs and Pr Craig Corbin authorized as signers.

Discussion—Pr Craig suggested looking for a card with some perks and Rick would like to have a card with local connections. **Motion passed.**

Luther Park has a safe deposit box. Rick has the key now, but doesn't know what's in it. Rick asked for a **resolution** that Brenda, Pr Mike, Steve, and Pr Craig be authorized to enter the safe deposit box. Motion by Amanda and seconded by Don. **Carried.**

Pr Mike made a **motion** to add Pr Craig Corbin as an authorized signer of the reserve fund and the annual fund. Dale made the second. **Motion passed.**

The petty cash fund has been cleared out. Pr Craig suggested \$300. Rick will replenish the petty cash fund with \$300.

To switch the mail from a post office box to rural delivery, will require a change of address. Because of this, the finance committee has decided to use up the present supply of letterhead paper and envelopes before making the switch.

Communication with congregations regarding current financial status

Pr Mike suggested asking congregations to take a special offering for LP. This special offering should be in addition to regular giving and it should happen in the next 30 days. Discussion followed on the goal amount. We are seeking a \$100,000 loan. Pr Mike suggested breaking it down to smaller numbers and asking for \$15 per person and this was agreed upon. Mike will refine this announcement request and e-mail it to the churches.

Consider additional Revisions to the 2009 Budget

No revisions were made to the budget at this meeting.

Accept Financial Report

A **motion** to accept the August 31 financial report as printed was made by Don, seconded by Bill. **Motion carried.**

Property & Program Committees

Don reported that the remodeling for the synod office is on schedule and will be ready by the October move in date, thanks to many volunteers. The president asked Don to keep track of all the volunteers so they can be thanked. Luther Woods is ready for winter except to make some wood yet. The pontoon boat may need some motor repairs.

Amanda reported that the volunteers are working hard to be ready for the first Recharge on Oct. 2-3. There are only a few more details to work out.

Amanda has been asked to give an update on Luther Park at a youth ministry network meeting on Oct. 5 in Chetek. Pr Craig suggested that it is too early to make a report because there are no planned changes at this time. Amanda will answer the invitation but will not attend the meeting.

Amanda asked about The LooP and if it will continue. Diana has the LooP addresses.

Unfinished business

Replicating the Conference Pastor's Meeting – planning (Steve & Jim)

The following Conference Pastors meetings have been scheduled:

1. Jan. 20, at EC--done
2. Sept 28, at Cable
3. Oct. 12, at Central, Mondovi
4. Sept 24, Elk Mound about 9:45 am Chippewa Valley Conf. This is a follow up of the Jan. 20 meeting.

Listening Sessions (Steve)

The following Listening sessions for all members of Luther Park congregations have been scheduled:

September 24 at 7:00 PM
Grace Lutheran Church
202 West Grand Ave., Eau Claire

September 29 at 6:30 PM
Immanuel Lutheran Church
205 Pine Street, Pepin

October 1 at 7:00 PM
Trinity Lutheran - Cumberland
2532 15th Street, McKinley
8 miles West of Cumberland on Hwy. 48

Continued use of the Message Board

Steve suggested that the message board is nearing the end of its usefulness and we will probably delete it from the website around the middle of October.

New business

Public Comment

Steve wants to add an agenda item for public comment at all meetings. Dale asked if we will accept emailed comments? After some discussion it was agreed that all comments made during public comment time at board meetings must be made in person.

Special Corporation Meeting – draft agenda & potential dates

About 30 churches have requested a special meeting of the corporation. Our discussion included thoughts about the need for a good parliamentarian; the need for some clarifying revisions to our constitution and bylaws; the need for legal advice; the understanding that a special meeting can be called for by the congregations, but the board has to set the agenda and send the notice; the rule that only what is on the agenda as printed in the meeting notice can be discussed at the meeting; and that no personnel information can be discussed. Members discussed Sunday, November 1, 2009, at 3 pm at Luther Park as the date and time for the special meeting. We will set the agenda to reflect the concerns listed in the letters from congregations asking for this meeting. Pr Mike will work with Steve and write the first draft for the announcement letter. Steve will talk to the Outdoor Ministry Office in Chicago by phone tomorrow.

Motion by Mike, second by Don to authorize the president, Steve Kolden, to set the time, date, and agenda of the special meeting as requested by 30 congregations. **Carried.**

Response to letter from Megan Walck

It was agreed that the letter from Megan Walck does not represent a very large number. She indicated that there were 6 people who had agreed on the date and agenda that they will send to the Luther Park congregations. There were no signatures for the 6 individuals writing the letter. The board agreed that the congregations can call for a meeting but the board has to send the notice and agenda. We feel that the meeting scheduled on November 14, by Megan Walck and five others, is not an official meeting, but some board members would like to make the effort to work with this group and come to some agreement on an acceptable agenda for all.

Meeting with First Lutheran (Brenda & Steve)

First Lutheran was very supportive of Luther Park. They will not foreclose on the camp and they may be willing to help us on a new loan.

In August, Brenda also asked First Lutheran to consider giving some money to Luther Park from an estate that First Lutheran received recently. The committee honored Brenda's request and Luther Park will be receiving \$10,000. On October 11, First Lutheran will have a ceremony to give checks to Luther Park and several other recipients. Brenda asked for a couple board members to come to the ceremony.

Retreat Host stipend

Steve asked for a **motion** to establish a \$50 per night stipend (\$75 if it is a wedding) to those who serve as hosts for retreats at Luther Park. Amanda made that **motion** and Bill made a second. **Motion passed.**

Retreat Host process / progress

Steve updated the Board on the progress of Retreat Hosts for weekends the camp has been rented.

Potential additional Staff reductions to meet budget?

No action was taken. Board members want to avoid cutting any more staff. The president tabled this item for now.

A question was asked about the Sayther contract and if it has ended. It has ended and the bill is paid.

Fall "ask letter"

There was discussion about our traditional fall letter asking for donations. Concern was expressed regarding the close proximity to the letter that Sherm had recently sent. It was agreed we need to follow up with another letter but wait until October to do this. This should be signed by the Board.

Closed Session (if needed)

There was no closed session at this meeting.

Next Meeting October 15th

The next meeting will be October 15, 2009. We will meet at **Hope Lutheran on Eddy Lane in Eau Claire**. Those who are interested will come for the Game Feed at Hope at 5:30. Our committee meetings will be at 7 pm and the board will meet at 7:30. Pr Lee will give devotions.

Adjourn and Lord's prayer

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted,
JoDeen Forsyth, secretary