

Cross Congregational Meeting- Sunday April 25, 2010

Attendees-56 members signed in

Meeting called to order by Bob Leverenz at 12:22p.m.

Invocation & Opening Prayer by Pastor Barry Osterbur

Review of minutes from January 24, 2010 meeting

- Motion by Barb Lehtonen to accept minutes (with correction)
- Motion seconded by Terry Smith
- Motion carried
- Minutes reviewed – 1 correction necessary change Synod assembly date to May 20th thru 22nd.

Treasurers Report

- Bob Brown presented his report
- The profit & loss sheets show total expenses for March at \$24,372.61 with the YTD total expenses at \$71,711.54. The net income for March was \$-3,756.82 while the YTD net income is at \$-5,386.92.
- The balance sheet thru March 31st show total liabilities & equity at \$997,246.76
- Motion to accept the treasurers report by Frank Maisano
- Motion seconded by Rich Jones
- Motion carried
- Bob B. included a list of the dedicated funds that were cleaned up and the list of people authorized to sign for dedicated funds.
- Bob B. mentioned that the mortgage was renewed and the paperwork was signed at the April executive board meeting. Bob B. mentioned that we will continue to pay the amount we had been paying for the mortgage, although the payment is now lower. This will make it possible for us to build a “cushion” of funds that would be available to us if necessary.

On Going Business

By-Law Revision

- Pastor Barry mentioned that the revisions were noted in the Jan. cong. Meeting minutes. It was stated by Bob Leverenz that we would take a second vote on approval of these revisions.
- Bob Leverenz took the vote, it was approved by the congregation.

Reallocation of Thrivent Funds

- Bob Brown stated that he had met with Pat Kleener of Thrivent. Pat had given Bob B. a proposal for reallocating our approx. \$53,000.00 that is invested with Thrivent. These funds returned no income at all last year. Pat has proposed we split the funds into 4 different accts. A high yield bond fund, a mid cap growth fund, a municipal bond fund and a money market fund. Bob B. stated there is a

onetime front load fee of 2.75% of total funds, which is half of the normal fees, since we are a non-profit organization. After this initial fee is paid funds may be moved around with no additional fees, as found necessary. Bob B. mentioned that Pat Kleener will monitor these funds and make any necessary adjustments to portfolio as needed. Bob B. mentioned that all of these funds are low risk.

- Bob Brown stated that the executive board and the finance committee had both approved the reallocation of the funds.

Synod Information

Berrick Educational Event

- Pastor Barry Osterbur stated that this event is being held on Sat. May 8th from 9:00am to 2:30pm at Mt Calvary Lutheran Church in Warren.
- He is looking for people to attend this event, Building Racial Reconciliation in Christ's Kingdom.
- Pastor Barry reminded everyone that we had signed this reconciliation as a congregation last year.

Assembly Preview

- Pastor Barry Osterbur reminded us that the Synod Assembly is May 20 thru the 22nd. He will attend along with Naomi Loose and Rory Clark. This assembly is for the Southeast Michigan synods and the focus for this year is on justice.
- There will be a lunch on the lawn with state senators
- Pastor Barry suggests we visit the website to become well informed on this event.
- Elaine Osterbur suggested we may want to have a coffee hour after the assembly to review the happenings at this assembly.

Strategy Update

- Pastor Barry gave outline of ways God calls the people of the Southeast Synod to rise up: Bear burdens, build bridges, break chains and bring hope.

Ministry Area Reports for 2009

- There were no ministry reports for this meeting

New Business

- Brian Knop who is a member of Cross and works with Thrivent gave a detailed presentation on "Kids Against Hunger".
- This is an event that Cross will be involved in, being held on June 6th from 12:30pm and again at 3:00pm. at First English Lutheran Church.
- People are asked to volunteer their time to fill 20,00 bags of food for the needy. These will be distributed locally, nationally and to Haiti.
- Anyone interested should contact our church office.

New Board Position

- Bob Leverenz announced that there will be a new executive board position called "Nuture". Rory Clark will be in this position and it will include Stephan ministry, Cross Helping Hands and the Parish Nurses.

Patio Chats

- Pastor Barry Osterbur spoke of possibly extending the concept of the “Fireside Chats” into “Patio Chats” that could run this summer.
- Pastor Barry stated that this is a current work in progress. We may meet at members homes, or the pavilion here at Cross.
- Jim Loftus is involved in the idea process and hopefully mid May more info will be available regarding these gatherings.

Highlights

IT Committee Update

- Bob Leverenz spoke for the committee. He mentioned that the announcement monitor is up and running.
- Bob L. stated that a screen will soon be in the library running photos of members who have died. The Clarks donated a tv for this project. Bob L. hopes it will be up and running before our next cong. Meeting.
- Bob L. stated that our internet had been switched to WOW where we will save approx. \$100.00 a month.
- Bob L. stated that Pastor Barry had received his new laptop.
- Bob L. discussed the new FCC guidelines that required our purchase of new wireless microphones for the sanctuary. This transition should be completed by June. We will receive rebates on our old equipment.
- Bob L. stated that the website will be enhanced with a firewall side for members to log into.

Community Dinners

- Carolyn Kammer discussed our first Community dinner where we had approx. 30 guests and many volunteers.
- Carolyn spoke of hoping to be able to offer dinners once per month.
- Our next dinner will be Fri. May 21st. The congregation will be asked to sign up for desserts.
- There will be an announcement of the event in the local paper and Carolyn is getting the word out to other churches in the community. Penny Van Haverbeck is helping in this area.

Adult Ed Opportunity

- Elaine Osterbur spoke about her new adult bible study that will begin next Sunday April 25th at 9:30a.m.in the fellowship hall. It will be a 6 week course of study. You do not have to attend all to stay on track.
- The study will be on The Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew.

Open Mike

- Mike Beauvais announced the changes in the 11:00 worship service and asked for feedback either to Marcia Gagnon or Pastor Barry.

- Barb Lehtonen asked about our paper recycling bin program. Deb Jones stated that the company plans on pulling our bin soon because we do not fill it fast enough.
- Sherry Dittrich wanted to thank Bob Leverenz for leading us in a peaceful meeting today since past ones have not been that way.
- Joe Zdybel stated that the storage closet had been cleaned out and organized by his family. He hopes we will all be diligent in keeping it organized.
- Charlee Wray mentioned she is part of the photography group taking pictures for the announcement board. Let them know if any pictures need taken for any special events going on.
- Carl Kammer mentioned we could use additional volunteer photographers and if anyone needs instruction on using the cameras, help is available.
- Pastor Barry Osterbur mentioned that he has been extremely busy with his synod director position. There have been retirements, and ill health issues contributing to his busyness. There have been a total of 16 days for retreats, phone calls and meetings since he took this position in October. He is hoping the schedule will become easier.
- Pastor Barry shared his “Bob” poem.

Presidents Comments

- Bob Leverenz stated that by our next meeting we will have to decide about extending Pastor Kimberly employment with us. He ask that we share our feelings with either himself or Pastor Barry.

Closing Hymn

Prayer by Pastor Barry

- Motion to adjourn meeting by Rich Jones
- Motion seconded by Mike Beauvais
- Motion carried

Meeting adjourned