

## **Council Meeting, April 26, 2011**

NOTE: "With regrets, I must beg forgiveness for my absence at the Tues the 26th Council meeting. This will be my first absence since taking office. Christina has a Pinning Ceremony for her RN from 6:00 to 8:00. Many thanks to all of you who have been praying in support of her. " John Rivett

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Members present: Pastor Rob Schmidt, Kathy Smith, Gary Miller, Cathy Schulz, Tom Laatsch, Lori Laatsch, Cindy Frazier, Jan Hennink, Bill Bell, Brenda Bluem and Hillary Norfleet.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Pastor Rob. He began the meeting with prayer, scripture from John 21:20-25 and recaptured Sarah Wagner's life saving heroism. We need to consider when God invites us into a deeper relationship and try not to miss those opportunities! Philippians 4:10-13. Everyone was encouraged to identify aspects of maintaining gratitude in all circumstances.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from March's Council meeting were distributed with the agenda. After reviewing, a motion was made by Jan Hennink and seconded by Cathy Schulz to approve the March 2011 Council minutes as written. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial report was included with the minutes. Nothing unusual to report. \$216.50 has been collected from 3 noisy offerings to date for Saginaw Metro Ministry.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

0 used 16 remain – vacation weekdays  
1 used and 3 remain – vacation Sunday

Funerals: none  
Baptisms: none  
Weddings: none

Continue with Spiritual Director.

Service on Wednesday will go back to the continuation of the previous Sunday.

Designation of memorials – waiting for time to make contacts and send letters.

Sympathy gifts have been purchased and now being shared.

Sponsorship of One Youth Baseball team continues – Pr. not coaching this year.

### **Major Discussion:**

We have 4 youth (Amanda DePelsMaker, Jessica McQuinn, Shannon Riffel and Samantha Schmidt) which have joined the Methodist church youth group that need our support of \$300/person toward a mission trip. Fund raiser? Noisy offering? Silent (soft) offering for 3 Sundays? A motion was made by Lori Laatsch and seconded by Hillary Norfleet to invite the 4 youths to have a "temple talk" before the

congregation and to conduct noisy (silent) offerings for 3 Sundays (May 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>). Pastor Rob will coordinate. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

The council discussed Long Range Planning and goals. There was discussion on the lack of seating and parking on Easter Sunday. Tomorrow night is a meeting of the Ad Hoc committee and some ideas that were discussed were a building program (maybe done in steps), more entry space, from the sanctuary to fellowship hall should be a straight-through – no steps up and secluded, the need for more coat space, a helper to Pastor (associate pastor and/or additional staff, more parking space and more programming. The physical and emotional health of our members – things other than tangible items – should also be considered.

**Long Range Planning:** Cindy Frazier presented the ideas of the Long Range Planning Committee. We need to remember the Long Range Ad Hoc Committee are input gatherers – not decision makers. It has been suggested that Pastor Hardy, assistant to the Bishop from the Synod, come in and help the congregation with direction. He would lead Listen to God in the Scriptures (a 1.5 hour session). Sessions 2 and 3 would be handled by the congregation where we listen to the thoughts of the members. Then session 4, Pastor Hardy would come back and pull it all together. Pastor Rob will attend the meeting tomorrow evening to relay his thoughts toward the planning. Motion by Pastor Rob and seconded by Jan Hennink that the Ad Hoc committee proceed with pursuing the program offered through NWLM Synod and Pastor Hardy subject to committee approval at the Ad Hoc committee meeting tomorrow evening. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Pastor Support of the Listening to God program offered through the synod.

Discussion of Ideas – Implementation still on hold.

Discussion of youth volunteers – single, divorced, living together etc.

**Community Garden:** Would the church be interested in growing a community garden on the church grounds? Families would get involved by adopting a garden section to plant and care for. We could try it on a small scale, but there would have to be rules. There is no water available, so folks would need to haul their own. Saginaw Township has one behind their hall – maybe check with them on how it's working out.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Next meeting date:** There was a motion made by Kathy Smith and seconded by Hillary Norfleet to move the May Council meeting from May 17 to May 24. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS:**

**Deacons** – Nothing to report. The next meeting will be held May 22.

**Education** – The Palm Sunday bake sale was great. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is being planned. Sunday School is drawing to a close. They are discussing the possible organization of a youth program and Cindy Frazier is helping with that.

**Elders** – There was no April meeting. They had a successful new membership reception with 23 new members. The next meeting is May 15.

Property – Spring clean-up was held on April 16<sup>th</sup>. They removed shrubs from around the bell tower (to be replaced at a later date). They cleaned leaves from the stove area at the front entrance. They removed duct work from the basement to provide more storage area. They repaired the entrance lighting in the foyer. They cleaned the outside windows of the fellowship hall and school. Bob LaDuke provided maintenance to both mowers - they are now full of fuel and ready to go.

Worship – No meeting. The next meeting is May 4.

Women's Board – They celebrated the success of the Woman's Pampered Party and the final plans for the LWR Baby Shower. They discussed the spring rummage and the Mother/Daughter Banquet. They approved scholarships for high school seniors Brendan Bell, Haylee Parsons, Courtney Payk, Samantha Payk, Shannon Riffell and Mitchell Worner. The Esther Bible Study is a success! Gia Locke was voted in as the new Vice President. Discussion followed on the Hero Banquet of Sarah Wagner – 14 Zion members attended. Bonnie Vasold will head the information task force for shades/panels on the pavilion.

In/Reach – Out Reach – There will be an Ice Cream Social on Mother's Day after the 10:30 service. Danny Goetz's Race - a fundraiser and In/Reach – Out Reach will help promote it. To be held June 10. Planning the BBQ picnic to send the kids off to confirmation. Possibly another Loons game. Pastor suggests a Saginaw Sting game.

Stewardship – nothing to report.

Music – Choir is winding down for the summer. The organ had it's annual maintenance done and fixed a few minor problems. Jenny's office hours are now by appointment only, as their busy season at the greenhouse has begun. The strings group still meets on Monday nights.

Endowment – **The Endowment Fund is now accepting grant requests.** They have \$860 available for our 2011 distribution. Perhaps you or your ministry group have an exciting use for these funds? They are sponsoring a baseball team for \$180 out of advertising money.

Computers and monitors – purchasing is moving forward.

Pastor Rob offered a closing prayer.

A motion was made by Kathy Smith and seconded by Tom Laatsch to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kathy Smith, Council Secretary*