

## **Council Meeting, November 29, 2011**

Present: Pastor Rob Schmidt, Kathy Smith, Cathy Schulz, John Rivett, Dave Smith, Jan Hennink, Tom Laatsch, Margarette Diechman, Jim Stirrett, Cindy Frazier, Todd and Diane Crawford, Dick Wirtz, Kathy Bell, Bill Bell, Marsha Paetz, Jeff Schram and Connie Hoverman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by John Rivett. Pastor Rob offered an opening prayer and led devotion from Psalm 46, verse 10. "Be still and know that I am God."

**SPECIAL REPORT – Long Range Planning:** Dick Wirtz introduced the Long Range Planning Report (attached). Phase I "Listening to God in the Scriptures" was presented by Diane Crawford. Phase II "Listening to God in the Congregation" was presented by Jeff Schram. Phase III "Listening to God in the Community" was presented by Dick Wirtz. Phase IV "Bringing It All Together" was presented by Cindy Frazier. The top 3 recommendations in order (cultural change was included but had no specific recommendations) include additional paid staff, facilities, and leadership and volunteers. Other recommendations include Evangelism/Outreach, youth, and community services (external). It was suggested the Council be divided into groups to handle the various 'segments' of the results of the report versus everyone dwelling on the 'entire' report. Motion made by Margarette Diechman and seconded by Kathy Smith to accept the recommendations as presented. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. Motion by Pastor that given culture change as an overall objective, he moves that the top 3 recommendations given by the Long Range Planning Committee become our priorities as to obtaining these objectives led by the collective effort of council to implement them beginning at the ministry leadership meeting in January. Seconded by John Rivett. Discussion followed. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**MINUTES:** Motion made by Pastor and seconded by John Rivett to accept the October 18, 2011 Church Council minutes with Pastor's additions under Pastor's report, and inserting "Connecting" to the Mission Statement. Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Motion made by Pastor and seconded by Cathy Schulz to accept the October 23, 2011 annual congregation meeting minutes as amended (change Denny to Dennis Lyvere and Bonnie Miller went off of the Ministry of Stewardship). Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial report was included with the minutes. The boiler invoice has been paid and as of this Sunday \$18,900 has been donated to the boiler fund.

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

Vacation Days: 10 weekdays used (14 remain); 1 Sunday used (3 remain).

Weddings: None

Funerals : 10-29-11 Carol Hayes; 11-4-11 Bill Hayes

Baptisms: 11-13-11 Grant Herbolsheimer

National Gathering and HS Youth Events - 16 students from Zion and 4 from OLLC Saginaw are attending the National Gathering in New Orleans. We are meeting monthly in Nov. and Dec. as a youth group. Parents are assisting with fund raising and organization. Estimated cost is \$1000 per student with church paying 1/3, families paying 1/3 and fund raising paying 1/3. We are still working on travel arrangements.

Pastor has met with the following ministry teams to encourage and challenge them toward organization: Stewardship, Women's group, Education and Worship board. These meetings are productive. Long Term Planning group has finished their work and will present the outcome to council this month.

Special services this past month included confirmation services on the 10-30-11 and All Saints services on Wednesday 11-2-11 and Sunday 11-6-11. Not reported last month was the special healing services held on 10-9-11 and 10-12-11. Advent planning is complete. We are promoting silence and meditation before worship, have written special liturgy for each advent service linking our conf. and forgiveness with the theme of the advent candle.

New members group and first communion groups completed in Nov. 2011. 10 families joined the church and 4 families celebrated 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. Pastor met with a spiritual advisor on 11-17-11. Christmas Eve services are being planned with Doug Kahl, and he will cover.

#### Discussion Items:

1. How will issues be handled during Pastor's vacation from Dec. 22 -Jan. 2? Pastor will provide a list of contact names and numbers from local pastors that will assist with emergency calls or funerals. That list will be passed out to all Executive Council, ministry boards and Marsha. The congregation will be encouraged to call our admin. assistant (Marsha), Executive Council members or ministry team leaders for concerns and needs as they arise. There is no possible way for Pastor to assist with issues during this vacation period.
2. Discuss the continued need for regular attendance at council meetings by all ministry teams and the need to have regularly scheduled meetings, organized with agendas, caring for members and growing the church and ministry teams. Becoming organized is our call to grow and structure ourselves.

#### Action Items:

1. Approve new members by affirmation of faith unless noted next to their names: We welcomed the following new members to Zion 11-20-11; Mercedes Brand, Julie Crook and son Chase Crook, Ann Densmore, Justin and Carrie Herbolsheimer and son Grant, Dr. Donna Washington-Keeling and Dr. Marvin Keeling and children Jonathan, Alex and Ryan, John and Jan Poma, Amanda and Levi Ralph and daughter Brooklyn, Kristina Saenz and Nathan Stainsby and daughter Kaileigh, Todd and Erin Shappe and daughter Madeline (transferred from Grace), Laura Yelsik (transferred from Grace), and Phylis Schulz (joined by special arrangement in May).

Motion made by John Rivett and Jim Stirrett seconded by to accept these families into the membership of Zion. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Furnace Boiler Fund Drive:** We are \$7,000 short of our goal. We still need to raise \$15,750.

**Budgeting 2012 Finalized:** Cathy Schulz will distribute the final 2012 budget via email.

**Leadership Meeting Date:** January 17, 2012.

**Schedule Group Leaders Workshop:** Pastor will schedule a meeting before he leaves for vacation.

**Call for Volunteers for Pastor Annual Review:** We need a couple of people from the Council to lead Pastor's annual review. John Rivett, Jeff Schram and Margarett Diechman volunteered. They will meet second week of January.

**Equipment:** The copy machine downstairs in the education rooms is broken and is not repairable. The office staff will purchase a new inexpensive one.

**Next Council Meeting Date:** January 24, 2012.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS:**

**Deacons** – nothing to report.

**Parish Education** – This ministry is in charge of the reception on Confirmation Sunday. The fall Sunday School lessons are ending and the winter series has been ordered. There will be no Sunday School on Nov. 27. They are currently working on the Christmas program and practices will begin the week after Thanksgiving, which include a morning practice on Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. There will not be a Family Fun Sing for the months of Nov. and Dec. Children's Church is still going strong with help from the Confirmation students. They are also making preparations for the National Gathering in New Orleans. **SAVE YOUR INKJET CARTRIDGES!** They get anywhere from 50 cents to \$2 /cartridge and are using the funds toward this trip. It was noted how much we appreciate our Sunday School teachers and we thank them!

**Elders** – nothing to report.

**Property** – Bushes in the front of the church have been replaced. Decorations in the basement need to be organized.

**Worship** – Pastor Doug Kahl will conduct Christmas Eve services.

**Ministry of Women** – Truck & Treat went well – approximately 7 trunks. 37 have signed up for the Woman's Christmas Party to be held Dec. 12. Still looking for volunteers for the Spring Mother/Daughter Banquet. The Bazaar profits were down this year, but we profited approximately \$2085. The Spring Bible Study Retreat will be held May 4 – 5 at Ascension – cost yet to be determined. The January General Meeting will be a potluck on Jan. 22. Scrapbooking weekend will be held Jan. 13 -15.

**In/Reach – Out Reach** – Progressive Dinner will be held Dec. 3. Trying to determine if there is enough interest in a Wild Game Dinner. They are currently planning a winter indoor picnic with outdoor fun activities in February. Future events under consideration include Center for the Arts activity, tubing at Snow Snake, swimming at Plymouth Park, Sports Zone activity, camping at Zion, hockey and card club. The next meeting will be held Jan. 11.

**Stewardship** – Plans are in progress to begin acquainting the congregation with the work of the Synod and National Church body. Stewardship Campaign Commitment Cards are still trickling in, with a response rate similar to last year's campaign. Fred Bartlett will continue to provide the Stewardship messages for the Sunday bulletins. The next meeting will be held Dec. 5 at 10 a.m.

**Music Ministry** – Currently planning for Advent and Christmas. The choir has gained a few temporary singers for both. The choir sang at the Community Thanksgiving Service assisted by some Methodist

Church singers. Guidelines for specialized music during the holidays include (1) directing your request to Jenny, (2) Jenny previewing the selection prior to acceptance, (3) allow enough time to place it in the bulletin and arrange for accompaniment if needed, and (4) sharing your “gift” at a regular service prior to a special service. During the winter months after Christmas, Jenny will be helping the Gospel Group more, since Better Scherzer will be leaving town. Specialized music with kids is being considered.

**Endowment Fund** – Wants a request from Board of Properties for a contribution to the Boiler Fund. Also suggested a donation to the Woman’s Bible Study for refreshments, etc. Possible Mission funding?

Motion made by Cindy Frazier and seconded by Tom Lattsch to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. There was no discussion. Motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Pastor Rob offered a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kathy Smith, Council Secretary*