

December 20, 2011 Council Report

Council President Bonnie Ehrke opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Present: Bonnie, Jaime Lewellin, Financial Secretary Elizabeth Kaashagen, Treasurer Holly Loomis, Karen Hayes, Kurt Klemp, Kristen Lien, Interim Pastor Jim Schwarz, Peggy Luther. Absent: Steve Wagner.

OPENING DEVOTION & PRAYER: For his last council meeting with us, Pastor Jim opened by holding a copy of the New Testament that was recently translated into the Malei language. John & Amy Lindstrom, missionaries to Papua New Guinea who were instrumental in this translation, visited EKLC in early December and gave a beautiful copy of the New Testament to our church. Pastor Jim's devotion for this season of Advent was from 1 John, "In the beginning was God...". He also read excerpts from "Shortcuts: the Easy Way", which reminded us that perfection escapes us, and even the road that Jesus traveled was not easy.

CONSENT AGENDA: Financial Secretary Elizabeth indicated that *income*, although down from a year ago, exceeded expenses in November. Another principal payment was made on the *Building Loan*. The check from the insurance company for the *damage to the parsonage roof* covered all but \$56. The Investment Fund will pay about \$1,400 in outstanding *intern expenses*. We are on track to do a *January audit* of financial books. Discussion of the Lindstrom visit and other *benevolences: use up the mission funds* rather than let them sit. Treasurer Holly presented the *December 2011 invoices*, both paid and unpaid. Discussion of *d2design* and what they provide for a \$7.50 monthly fee, and *New Expressions*, the website management company.

Secretary's Report (council minutes/notes from November) were reviewed and accepted.

Property Committee *Lighting:* the dusk-to-dawn light in the parking lot needs replacement.

Call Committee References are being checked. Pastor Jim's concern is the probability of pastoral care and confirmation during this interim.

Youth Education The highlight: Jaime shared some photos of an outstanding *Sunday School Christmas Pageant!!!* The youth also *raised money* to provide turkey dinners, donate to Adopt-a-Child, and collected coats, hats, and mittens to those in need.

Interim Pastor's Report Pastor Jim's last report to the council included mention of the ecumenical Thanksgiving service with other area churches here at East, the visit from the Lindstroms, the annual December choir concert (and coffee hour in his honor), and the Christmas pageant. He mentioned that he has finished up the last of his pastoral visits. Before his contract ends on Dec. 31, Pastor Jim will preside and preach 3 Christmas services, prepare info for the next person leading the confirmation program, and write an annual report. In his December report to the council, Pastor Jim thanked EKLC "...for the opportunity to serve for more than a year as interim pastor..." and urged us to "...now conclude the call process in a timely way..." The council thanked Pastor Jim Schwarz for his dedication, compassion, keen sense of order, and ministry to EKLC, and told him how much we would miss him.

Motion made by Jaime, seconded by Kristen, to accept all financial and committee reports of the Consent Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS: *Gifts of Service:* surveys that have been returned will be entered into the Shepherd's Staff

computer program. This will be especially helpful information when a new pastor accepts a call to our congregation.

NEW BUSINESS: Annual meeting to be held on January 22, 2012; we will need about 70 people for a quorum. Motion made by Peggy, seconded by Kristen, to not pursue adding a youth council member. Door closers: tabled discussion until January, 2012. Proposed Staff Budgets: Jaime distributed a worksheet for church staff, exclusive of a pastor. Much discussion about how much we value the service of ALL staff and how we feel we cannot propose an increase in their salaries. In appreciation of Julie Kriedeman's service, however, which has been above and beyond all expectations, the council unanimously decided to give her a "spot" bonus of \$500 (to come out of Office Manager line in the budget). **Much** discussion about: Interim Pastor salary, all line items in the proposed 2012 budget, with the end result being what the council considers a very reflective, accurate budget. Continuing discussion about the parsonage. Discussion of Interim Pastor after December 31 and "pulpit supply" for the month of January. Good Samaritan Fund: what's the future for this after Pastor Jim leaves? Council decided to not do anything with this until we have hired a new pastor.

Because of the late hour, we called it a night at approximately 10:15 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Luther