

ECCH Council Meeting

April 18, 2011

Present

Chad Burlet	Paul Allen	Roger Johnson
Kevin Barry	Lars Stromberg	Jen Secola
Jean Regan	Scott Morrow	Jim Bell
Linda Noonan	Jim Kramer	
Arlene Cheff	Todd Jensen	
Lynwood Larson	Jim Brorson	

Chad called the meeting to order. Scott Morrow led devotions.

Minutes – Chad Burlet

- ***March meeting minutes moved, seconded and approved as submitted.***

Treasurer's Report – Kevin

- We haven't paid out on the Pastor's pensions yet. We haven't yet received the payment notices as in years past.
- The Pastor's health insurance amount is quite a bit lower compared to last year, but seems in line with our budget. In the first quarter of 2010 we also paid for the fourth quarter of 2009.
- Plate giving is \$6K ahead of where we were at this time last year.
- We commend Arlene for her presenting the church's financial needs to the congregation.
- Giving has been up this spring, and even before the presentation.
- Todd mentioned encouraging the congregation—saying “thank you.” Chad said he would put something in the newsletter.
- We don't want to say the same thing every time. If we present the needs too frequently, it loses people's attention.
- The next quarter we might focus on the building and grounds.
- One person in the congregation expressed a concern to Arlene that some reserved funds hadn't been paid out.
- One expenditure from last year that appears to be twice what's expected, but that could be a late payment from 2009.
- Debt service this year-to-date is \$200 higher than last year, but should be less because the rate and principal are less. Kevin will investigate.
- Restricted fund relative to brick repair—it cost \$106K, but we thought it was a lower amount (\$102K - \$103K). Arlene will check with Charles.

- A negative restricted account means we spent more than we've taken in. They're typically not carried over from previous years. We should see positive balances, or realize the loss.
- With our cash position, Kevin's not comfortable paying the denomination for the entire quarter, but perhaps just January. We'll pay as much as we can, but not over-extend.
- **Treasurer's report as submitted moved, seconded and approved as submitted.**

Ministry Reports

Outreach – Roger Johnson

- We signed up to be part of PADS, August 27th, at Redeemer Lutheran (the summer site for the Hinsdale area). We need 24 people, including overnight shifts.
- Two events coming up with Feed My Starving Children. The next is on June 25th, with 40 people expected. Last time we scheduled for 20, and 17 attended.
- We're meeting monthly.

Education - Jen Secola

- Two months are left in the school year. We're on track financially.
- We have a few plans for the summer. We'd like to update some playground equipment. Many thanks to Chad (and his son) for leveling the gravel, etc. We may do a fundraiser, possibly with the parents, though Mary hesitates to ask for more on top of tuition. Lars mentioned that it's rare that we raise funds like this. We could make a fund available through the church for tax deductability. The amount needed would be more than a small fund-raiser (like a book sale) could bring in.
- Jen handed out the *Preschool Report* from Mary Seiferth.
- Preschool enrollment reached 100: what we were praying for!
- The final rotation of BLAST is under way.
- Sports-Life enrollment is a little off—we're going to do a big push from the preschool.
- We're doing another women's summer Bible study: Priscilla Shire on Jonah. Many are bringing friends. Kids enjoy it too.

Fellowship – Scott Morrow

- We had a game night last Friday. (For parents of high schoolers, not the students themselves.) Marie Roesler's cake made the night.
- Our Women's Brunch is May 7th, featuring Kris Causton. The theme is

- "Come as you are," and Heidi will reflect that in her planning.
- Our Golf outing is June 11th, late afternoon. – we have permission to do it as a fund raiser for Covenant camps, to send kids from this area to summer or winter camps. 72 is our limit. We'll give prizes.
 - We're planning a July 4th event before the parade: fall festival type.

Caring – Linda Noonan

- We met at the beginning of April.
- Paul will help Barb Holman seek a replacement for her.
- Laura Marth will put a blurb in the newsletter for help with cards.
- We'll do a ministry moment and a bulletin insert in the fall.

Worship – Jim Brorson

- The unknown budget line item(s) from Christmas eve were expenses (candle holders and fruit) from the previous year. We'll try to clear the invoices more quickly this year.
- We've been enjoying this *Who do you say that I am?* series, and the accompanying videos, but didn't realize that they were put together by our own Lars Stromberg. We'll make them available in the library, and send out thank-you's.

Admin - Arlene Cheff

- We're working to reduce our book-keeping costs, similar to custodial. Right now it's costing \$15K and we'd like to get it down to \$10K. With our new system in place it seems the costs should be lower. Debbie helped us greatly and Sandy does her part. We don't expect ongoing transitional or set-up costs.
- Last year we've been letting our landscaping go, with Carlos doing the mowing. We've asked Stacy Guido to lead the landscaping this year. She has a horticultural background. Perhaps get the boy scouts to rake leaves. Stacy is working with Katie on a landscape design. Chad mentioned that the Eagle Scout project also involves a planning component so the Scout should be involved too.
- Health insurance for a staff member: we have a good web link, through the state of Illinois. The husband qualifies for IPXP (preexisting conditions); the staff member didn't think she had a preexisting condition, but the doctor said she had. The form for preexisting conditions is much simpler, and the premiums are lower. They've been around for a while, and Arlene read that they were funded by the federal government. The husband's would be \$548/month, total of \$1024. If we could pay \$824, they pay \$200, with a \$1000 deductible. We know this is new, but other churches do cover their staff (though not spouses), so we've been fortunate that this had been

covered for us. In the traditional plan, the rates are nearly double. The policies' enrollment are capped at 6000. Some are still available. Disability takes about six months. We'd have to do it as a salary package, similar to the pastors. As a point of reference, we pay around \$7K for our preschool administrator's health insurance. A PPO would be \$685. We cannot do a medical saving account, because we don't want to create a taxable event.

- Some discussion about using the book-keeping funds for insurance. Is there a retired or at-home qualified book-keeper we can recruit?
- **Motion: to spend up to \$6000 on an employer-paid health insurance for the staff member, structured as a pre-tax (i.e., employer paid). Moved, seconded, and approved. (This was for the rest of 2011.)**

Mutual Ministries – Jean Regan

- We have scheduled meetings with the staff in the month of May.
- Staff evaluations – Scott: we've talked with everyone except Dan. We'd like to have it wrapped up by next month.

Pastoral Reports

Paul Allen

- We're doing our Stephen's Ministry assignments.
- Our largest Senior lunch was in April.
- Coming up: the passover meal, softball, and the Central Conference annual meeting. We don't have delegates: Paul will represent us. Lars will also attend.
- The Church Picnic will be June 5th, after a single 10am service.

Jim Kramer

- Special thanks from New Hope Covenant Church: we donated some sound system equipment.
- We might have a volunteer to help with the building. (There's a manual, but it doesn't get read.) He will change furnace filters, etc. Two people would be great. We could use someone just for mechanical tasks.
- Please spread the word: If you go to the hospital, or know someone who does, please let the church know. It used to be easy for pastors to find out, but now (with privacy rules) it isn't. The church won't know it happened unless they find out a different way. We will put something in the newsletter.
- We'll mow our own lawn—Carlos will—again this summer.
- Jim's sister, battling cancer, is still hopeful, though the treatment seems not to be doing what they want.

- *Who's new in the pew.* We've had a resurgence of high-schoolers who come to the 11:15 service then go to lunch.

Lars Stromberg

- It's good coming back home. We feel more at home than ever. They're thankful for the Bristows. We love living next door to the church.
- Also took some vacation.
- We'll have our spring banquet on confirmation Sunday. Eleven confirmands —a great class.
- We'll go to the Warren Dunes, the Boundary Waters in MN. We're also planning a trip to New Hampshire.
- Encouraging things on my mind: Sam Randall, our intern, is applying for a presidential scholarship for seminary. He wants to stay around and involved.
- We have so many student leader volunteers that we have to turn some away.
- In discussion with parents praying and thinking about confirmation; we'd like more confirmands involved in high school fellowship (we're at 50% or so now). We could couple it with flip-side during the week, though there are strong opinions on both sides of this move.

New/Old Business – Chad Burlet

- The Mid-year meeting: Paul said that the staff was thinking late August, perhaps the 28th. We'll keep it separate from Rally day. It's called for in the church's constitution. We think that having it the last thing before summer vacation won't be very impactful. We'll have it at 11:15am, August 28th.
- The third Monday is very early in August. The council will meet the fourth Monday, August 22nd. We probably won't meet in July.
- Corin will be going to Kenya for a short-term mission trip with Intervarsity. We'll do a newsletter and bulletin announcement.

Scott closed the meeting in prayer.