

Hinsdale ECC Council Meeting

September 19, 2011

Present

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

Chad called the meeting to order. Arlene led devotions.

Minutes – Chad Burlet

- ***August's meeting minutes were moved, seconded and approved as submitted.***

Mid-Year Meeting Debrief – Chad Burlet

- The mid-year congregational meeting had a fantastic turn-out.
- The town-hall style format seemed to work very well.
- More good ideas: the meeting's timing (11:15am), and sitting in a circle, to name a few.

Outreach Ministry – Roger Johnson

- We had a great turn-out on August 27 – 28 for PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter): 35 people participated, which is a lot. It went very smoothly. We want to get on the schedule for next year, one or two times. We'll put it in our ministry's budget: expenses are primarily for meals and laundry.
- Austin Corinthian Baptist Church (ACBC): we served 75-80 people at their Saturday morning food kitchen. Yogi led it again this year, and some new people took part.
- Upcoming: we're recruiting for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Aurora, IL, on 10/8. We still need a few more people to sign up.
- The India Mission dinner is planned for November 11th.
- We're looking to better connect with Hinsdale Community Services, as it's a local outreach opportunity. Todd, Jim, and Paul met with the director, and they're putting together things for us to consider for partnership. Paul is on

the board.

- We encountered a bump or two with our regular food runs: the stores change what they will and won't give us. One of our drop-off destinations didn't have a need for fresh fruit, but Hinsdale Community Services did.

Treasurer's Report – Kevin Barry

- We're doing well, particularly being just out of the summer. Plate collection has caught up to us. We're still \$6K ahead, and a stock gift is on its way. We're still ahead of last year, too. Also we're behind last year-to-date in expenses: we're \$13,578 lower. The 2011 also includes the \$8K that went to pensions.
- We went through individual expenses at our administration ministry meeting, but if you have questions let us know.
- Someone noticed that postage expenses are way up over last year, and that office supplies are way down. Kevin hasn't analyzed that, but it could be a difference of two mailings.
- This report reflects the health refund, pursued by Glenn Bjorkman.
- ***The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and approved as submitted.***

Council Opening – Chad Burlet

- Chad had a conversation with Mary Tackbary a week or so ago. Her life is a little too "crazy" to participate in the Council right now.
- Paul read the relevant part of the church's constitution to the Council.
- Chad contacted Jade Cook to make her aware of this. Chad will let the nominating committee lift up a name. There are 16 months left in her position.
- The Council notes that Mary Tackbary has resigned.
- We will approve someone for 3 – 4 months and the Congregation will approve someone for the final year.
- Chad asks that Council members please remove Mary's name from mailing lists, etc.

Church Reporting – Chad Burlet

- Using a sheet on the easel, Chad reviewed the church's accounting and accounts.
- Our cumulative account balance for the past ten years is (\$68K).
- The church keeps a single checking account for both general and restricted funds. Our position is the sum of all income, minus all expenses, plus all restricted funds. The only way we pay back a shortfall in an account (e.g.,

the restricted funds) is to have net positive income for the year.

- Some restricted accounts have positive balances, and Jill Rhiner gave a specific example of a restricted account that could be zeroed out. Also some accounts may have funds that may have come out of another fund. Paul will bring back a list of accounts to the ministries and have them look at their accounts to this end.

Potential fund-raising in 2012 – Chad Burlet

- Chad distributed the *Recent Major Initiatives* (1-page handout) – a list of the big things we've undertaken in the last 8-9 years.
- We've focused on bolstering the general fund this past year.
- Is 2012 the right time to attempt to 'burn the mortgage?' Our mortgage note expires at the end of 2012, and our lender tells us we can't get that rate now.
- We're not seeking answers tonight, but Chad asks the Council to think about it this month. Is there a different major initiative we should consider?
- Scott Morrow notes that the Church in the Desert makes a point of always having a special project going.
- Jim Kramer comments that it's interesting how things spark people: a group of people want to raise our contributions to the conference and the city churches.
- Todd notes that retiring the \$68K deficit on our books could be its own fund-raising project. Jean notes that this deficit could be a real hindrance: with diminishing reserves, we have less to apply to urgent needs. Lars notes that retiring this deficit is really a ministry opportunity.

Pastoral Reports

Lars Stromberg

- The ministry year is fully kicked off.
- We're seeing 80 students each week at Flip Side and Hi League, which is a new high. We're still scrambling to accommodate them all.
- This year's is the best leadership group we've had yet.
- We have a great confirmation crew – a high year in terms of numbers. The students bring the energy.
- We have weekend events planned: Covenant Point on Columbus Day.
- We're in a CHIC year. We'll do a small fundraiser in the fall, and a larger one in the spring. We're getting the students and parents excited about it. We'll try to welcome 8-12 students from Fellowship Covenant and Iglesia del Pacto Vida Plena in Oak Park.
- Lars showed a video he put together with college students (youth group/CHIC alumni) encouraging students to go to CHIC.

- The next big project is recruiting the confirmands' counselor friends – please pray for this. There are nine boys and two girls, and male counselor friends are harder to find.
- The cost for CHIC is about \$700. Lars wants leaders to not have to pay their own way.
- Louie Giglio and Francis Chan will be headlining CHIC. Efram Smith and Judy Howard-Peterson will also be there as before.

Jim Kramer

- One deeply disturbing thing: a staff person (Lars) isn't wearing socks!
- Jim distributed the *Who's New in the Pew* hand-out.
- The stained glass windows went out in a flash. Jim hopes we raise \$1000 with them, though we didn't collect money at the time.
- The India dinner is November 11th. We're always amazed at the work that people do, grab onto and run with – younger people, and people who are 96 years old (Natalie).
- Jim mentions Chicago Fellowship – a group meeting in the city on Wacker Drive. Six guys from the church attended their annual day-long retreat. 180 guys total in attendance. It was an amazing time.
- ACBC breakfast: we appreciate Yogi and Georgia leading this. They are doers, though they had the fire department here! (You can't cook cases of sausage or bacon in a building like this. One of the ovens caught on fire.)
- The church's Mens' groups have all started up: the Saturday morning group, the book club.
- Rally day was a great success: Jim enjoyed watching everyone's face while the guys were rapping up front. Everyone was right with them. We probably had a record number of people stay and eat food.
- Building maintenance: the elevator was broken, and repairing it wasn't cheap. We repaired the ceiling in the old kitchen, and it doesn't smell. We have a new sound board for the Sanctuary, largely funded by memorial funds. Kirke Cushing will install it, but we need a guy to set the levels, so installation won't be free.

Paul Allen

- As Paul scans his calendar—a diary of things we're doing – he can tell it's fall.
- Paul had a couple non-routine things: a tough grave-side service for a 28-year-old. But this is another way we minister to the community as a church.
- Paul spoke with Carla Erickson, who senses a calling to plug into the multi-ethnic church plant in Bolingbrook (City of Hope).
- On Wednesday he flies down to Charlotte for time with the grand-kids.
- Our weekend-format group gets together next Monday night.

Ministry Reports

Worship – Jim Brorson

- No news. The fall season is off and running.

Fellowship – Scott Morrow

- The fall festival coming up, on October 23rd.
- Our budget is thin, and our remaining money will go for animals. If there's a good explanation, we can go over and so better plan for next year. We want to know. Money collected during these events go into the general fund, so our budget looks worse than it is.
- We'll have a Thanksgiving service here. Fellowship Covenant in Oak Park will be joining us. We ask people to bring dessert.

Administration – Arlene Cheff

- We have lots of repairs that need to be done. Jim mentioned some of these. Also, Rich Lofgren will re-stripe the parking lot. The elevator repair was \$2400 (probably caused by the power outage). We might be reimbursed by insurance—we'll look into it. We also had trouble with our phone system.
- Helen Zimmerman's memorial fund is covering the screen, projector and laptop on the lower level for BLAST.
- We're going with IGS as our electricity supplier, and will save 11%. For summer months the costs are actually higher. Com Ed and IGS prices will go down in the winter.
- Following up from previous Council discussions: our staff member did get health insurance. It's Mutual of Omaha's *Freedom Life* plan. It's A-rated, and her premiums are \$433/month (though the first month has an initiation fee). They'll bill the church directly. It's only for her. It's a \$35 co-pay, and includes dental, vision, and life insurance. They're also giving the husband a policy. Given the low rate, we'll want to review the printed policy when it's received.

Education – Jill Rhiner

- We've hired someone full-time for the nursery on Sunday mornings. Nancy and Rick Townsend's daughter Emily is Montessori certified and has experience with church child-care. Linda says she's great in the nursery. She came recommended by Mary Seiferth. She'll be there every Sunday, with Linda there every other.
- BLAST and Little Lambs started the new year smoothly.
- Attendance was good at Sunday School.

- Jill the Preschool Budget. They haven't yet closed the books for the previous year, but these numbers are really close to those final numbers. We fulfilled our reimbursement, and we're showing \$18K profit, but Jill doesn't see the outgoing \$9K for the playground equipment. She'll show a final year-end next month.
- Jill distributed the memo from Mary Seiftherth, *Preschool Report September 2011*.
- Many thanks to Todd & Chad & their respective crews for the playground.
- Plans for the preschool: though our pre-K class is large, they're departing next year, and the younger classes are much smaller. We'll offer a 2-year-old program two mornings a week – we have the teachers and space. This will involve diapers, so we need to talk to DCFS.
- Should we do a tuition increase? We took a 20-25% increase a few years ago, and modest increases since. We'll look at it again.
- There's still a position open for the preschool music teacher. Two days a week. A music therapist filled this position before, but she wasn't up to putting programs together as they needed.
- Lynwood recalls that it was Alice Weens who had the vision for the preschool, and overcame many hurdles. We owe her a debt of gratitude.
- Jill was asked about picking up the *health and growth* task force again. Jill doesn't consider it to have ended and is eager to get back to it.

New/Old Business

- Todd Jensen will host a Dads' retreat in October.
- Lynwood Larson thanks Tess and Katie for their caring ministry presentations during the service. It's good to hear all the things going on.
- Regarding the new style of communion, one council member sensed a bit of confusion the first week. Direction for the choir is also appreciated, because they have more to navigate (robes, steps, etc).
- Regarding a disruptive church member, Todd spoke with his father, who has also had some experience with this. His pastor would settle a person down by the power of touch: by gently putting a hand on them, or having someone do it.
- Kevin Barry reminds the Council that it's budget season. He'll send packets out in e-mail. Please start putting your 2012 budget together. We'd love to get it by the Council's November meeting (that's next month). If we don't hear from you we'll assume your numbers haven't changed from last year. If you need current activity numbers, please let him know.

Arlene closed the meeting in prayer.