

# Hinsdale ECC Council Meeting

October 17, 2011

## Present

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

Chad called the meeting to order. Jen Secola led devotions from Ecclesiastes.

## Minutes – Chad Burlet

- Lynwood offers the correct spelling – Alice Wiens – of our preschool founder.
- **September meeting minutes moved, seconded and approved as amended.**

## Treasurer's Report – Kevin

- The stock gift mentioned last meeting did arrive in mid-September, but won't be reflected until next month's report.
- As of yesterday's collection, we have \$604,909.39 – the plate collection with the stock gift: we're \$100K over last year at this time. A very good position.
- Kevin sees no glaring items. He will speak with Lars about one housing issue to confirm that they're on the same page.
- Health insurance for a staff member: Yogi read the policy and concluded it wasn't worth the money. The State of Illinois has a variety of plans, some covering pre-existing conditions. The application process continues.
- Chad observes that the Grace & Peace ministry is on very good footing financially, and wonders if it could become self-supporting. He stresses that the church is still fully committed to it, and doesn't want to communicate otherwise. Kevin relays Jim Kramer's insight that one family wants very much for them to be in the church's budget. Chad will speak with Jim and Yogi. The church could be there as a backstop, but it may not need to be a line item in the budget.
- **The Treasurer's Report was report moved, seconded, and approved as submitted.**

## Pastoral Reports

### *Paul Allen*

- Paul distributed two handouts: *Who's New in the Pew* and the *Membership Update* list.
- Paul relays' Jim Kramer's regrets, missing this council meeting. He's with his sister Pat who is battling cancer at Loyola Hospital.
- The *Sunday morning format* group has met. They received 50 hard-copies and 30 electronic copies of the survey they distributed. They expect to tally them this week and report on them next month.
- Paul met with two ministry teams: *Worship & Caring*.
- Linda Noonan regrets that she couldn't attend tonight's Council meeting: she has another commitment. The Caring Ministry had a ministry moment one Sunday, but didn't get the brochure in the bulletin that Sunday. The group is logging a significant ministry.
- Paul had a great *Lunch Specials* session recently with 60 seniors and a banjo player for entertainment. Two big buses of seniors arrived.
- Looking ahead: Paul's son-in-law Ben will undergo surgery next Monday. Yogi will facilitate a meeting in Paul's absence. Paul also won't be able to attend the Central Conference pastors' retreat.
- Next week a new men's group will start.
- With Scott Morrow's help, we're undertaking a new outreach effort to new visitors.
- An update on the *Membership Update* (list): he received no response from fifteen on the list, 1 request for removal, and 8 requests to be retained. The responses are all in writing if anyone wants to see them.
- ***Paul moves that we strike the fifteen no-responders from the church membership rolls. This motion was seconded and approved by the Council.***

### *Lars Stromberg*

- He is working with strong and energetic groups and consistently ministering to 75-85 unique students. As well, he leads a semi-regular gathering for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders. It's not just the numbers, but the way the students are coming: ready to worship and dive deeper into friendship. No one is being picked on or left out.
- He's encouraged by a group of high-schoolers committing to be a presence at the third service, and taking ownership with that.
- 38 students went to the Covenant Point event: twice as many as last time. Eric (the new Director) sends his greetings. He's still acclimating to his new role, and they broke ground on new house. They're starting a capital campaign. Their trip had a learning curve for Lars: he had to rent another van.

- Looking forward to the next month: this weekend is the third annual Dad's retreat, and the biggest crew yet. There's a group of men who want to connect with one another.
- *Dodge-Ball-Palooza* is coming: a chance to get some aggression out of everyone's system. Adults now come as well. It's always a crazy fun night.
- As Chad mentioned, work on the garage, shed, and west side of our campus continues. Many thanks to Kirke Cushing, Roger Bong, Gary Kutay and Jim McCormick. It looks really good.
- They hosted an open house yesterday, showing off all that the church has done for the house. The best part was that Bunny Vong, who grew up there, got to see it.

## Ministry Reports

### *Worship – Jim Brorson*

- Jim can't emphasize enough, as Paul did, the importance of the format committee. There are crucial issues to consider and decisions to make. Hopefully we're getting good feedback. We need to consider all opinions, fresh ideas, and prayerfully make a good decision.
- Christmas season is approaching. Jack Beck has been strategizing for crowd control at Christmas, has some new ideas, and found someone who will find people to usher for those services.
- Paul gives these updates: Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> will be Gingerbread event, always popular with young families. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> (a Sunday and Ruth and Paul's birthday) will include Santa Lucia fest, probably in late afternoon. It's a Christ-centered festival with music, food, and Swedish crafts. The choir will be involved, and they're working to get children involved.
- Christmas & new years are both Sunday: there will be a single, joint service at 10am. We won't "mess with" Christmas eve. Nothing is planned for Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. We're open to suggestions.

### *Outreach – Roger Johnson*

- We'll meet this Thursday.
- Agape orphanage fund-raiser is on Nov 12, 6:30pm. Marie Roeseler will do a mission moment on Sunday, with the Shupes and Regans hosting pre-party. There will be a silent auction. 130 tickets are sold, and we're shooting for 150. This is the India team's orphanage, and its director will fly in for this.
- We have 500 pair of shoes, many in the lobby right now: \$1000 will go toward the well project in Kenya. Redeemer Lutheran and ten other churches are participating as well.
- Our routine things are still going on: Hospital Sister's outreach (packing medical supplies) happens three times a month.

- We'll refine our budget Thursday evening.

### *Fellowship – Scott Morrow*

- The Fall Festival, originally scheduled for this coming weekend, is now going to be on the 30<sup>th</sup>. (The day before halloween.) Last month's newsletter had the wrong day.

### *Education – Jen Secola, Jill Rhiner*

- We're staffed in nursery.
- We've had great attendance in Little Lambs and Blast. Every week brings a new family. New people are bringing new people and connections are being made.
- Jen Jensen & Katie Stromberg have 20 women coming to their study—a big jump. Todd Jensen is doing a Tuesday night study.
- The pre-school is still in need of a music teacher. Anyone knowing someone, please pass word along. Mary fills in in the interim.
- They distributed the *Year-end Fiscal Report*. Jill is looking at this the first time now. We'd like to get this report sooner than just before this meeting, but have not been able.
- We show a net income from last year, though that may not be as it appears. We need to clarify some playground expenses before closing the books on last fiscal year.
- They distributed the current-year-to-date balance sheet (covering just one month).
- They request prayer for more enrollment: even in January there will be people looking for a pre-school. They need to fill afternoons in particular.
- They're starting a 2-year-old program on Tuesday & Thursday mornings. Mary's confirming everything with DCFS. We'll need a dedicated diaper changing area among other things. But we don't need to be re-licenced.
- We're wrestling with these issues with the bookkeeper: the timeliness of the financial reports, their formatting, and having the books off-site. We'd like to get online access as we do the church.

### *Administration – Arlene Cheff*

- On the roof we have 3 furnace units, and all the motors are gone on them. Rheem will replace the motor equipment at their expense, but *not* cover the \$1000 labor for each one.
- Someone will check out the new boilers.
- The phones are fixed. The elevator had two separate repairs. The new sound system is in. The parking lot will soon be striped.
- There's a budget meeting on Nov. 7.
- We'd like to do a mission moment after the November council meeting, maybe the 27<sup>th</sup>. This will be the final mission moment for the year. We'll

have the proposed budget with a letter to the congregation. We want to talk about what we've been doing, and where our Covenant giving goes. It will be interesting and good for the congregation to see. Jim Kramer will help. The Covenant has a couple-minute-long video that covers the topic.

- We received the stewardship kit from the denomination to which Chad drew our attention. We'd like to look that over as we consider our message to the congregation.
- All the ministries' budgets were supposed to be in today, though not sure if they all are. We need them before November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Paul mentions that the electrical things needing repair are from the power outages: we took a pretty big hit from that outage. Glenn Bjorkman will inquire about an insurance claim.

## **New Business**

- Guest welcoming ministries, Scott Morrow. So far, there has been some staff discussions about newcomers/visitors/guests. How do we identify these people, how do we introduce them to what's going on, membership, etc. We'd like to have an open meeting on Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, Tues evening. We'll invite everyone, but would especially like to have a handful of people good at walking across the room to meet people. A Penny Degratto type of person. Who comes to your mind? We're being intentional: work through the details of how it's going to happen. Paul has some background information from the Alvin Institute.
- Should the council meet Nov 14<sup>th</sup>? The 21<sup>st</sup> is a full-week break, so fewer will be around. **Nov 14<sup>th</sup> it is!**

Scott Morrow closed the meeting in prayer.