

# **SERVING GOD, CHANGING LIVES!**

## **Hosanna Lutheran Church Congregation Council Meeting Minutes March 1, 2015**

**Present:** Pastor John Boldt, Chad Greer, President; Jeff Hartmann, Stewardship; Ron Christ, Finance; Pam Wells, Spiritual Life; Heather McNeil, VP/Mission Focus; Sharon Lindquist, Care Team; Sue Loudermilk, Discipleship.

**Absent:** Maureen Kennedy, Staff Support; Karrie Jenkins, Secretary.

**Quorum:** Quorum declared present with 8 in attendance.

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chad Greer at 11:26 a.m.

**Opening Prayer:** Opening Prayer offered by Pastor John.

### **Review of Council Meeting Minutes of 1/18/2015**

Discussion: The Law Enforcement Explorer Program is underway, with 6-8 students and 2 officers meeting on Tuesday afternoons at 3-5 p.m. Chad called for a motion to approve minutes. Motion made by Pastor John, seconded by Sharon Lindquist. Minutes approved.

### **New Business**

- Lenten Soup Suppers are underway. The Care Team with Karrie Jenkins hosted on Wednesday 2/17 and served 40-45 people. Stewardship and Finance will host on Wednesday 3/4. Chad passed out a schedule for the teams hosting for the remaining Wednesdays in Lent. Chad reminded team leaders to communicate the dates to their individual team members.
- Leadership Gathering scheduled for 3/8/15. Only 2 of the 12 churches invited have responded. Purpose of the Gathering is for the churches to do mission together. Pastor John will let us know if the meeting will be held or cancelled.
- Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge: This activity involves college students spending their Spring Break volunteering for Habitat at a deconstruction site, a construction site, and the Restore. Habitat Northwest Harris County is hosting 3 groups this year. A group of 24 from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee will be staying at Hosanna the week of 3/15. Habitat will provide the cots. The Hosanna congregation will be asked to donate breakfast items and to provide the evening meal. There might also be a need to utilize showers in several homes since Hosanna only has one shower. Pastor John will ask Gretchen to send out an email to the congregation informing them of the donations needed. An announcement with sign-up will be on Sunday March 8. Council would like to do a Texas Barbeque for one of the evening meals and Sue Loudermilk will apply for Thrivent Action Team funds to cover the cost of the meat.
- Synod Assembly Delegates: The Synod Assembly is 4/16-4/18 at the Greenspoint Hilton. Delegate nominations of Jeff Hartmann and Heather McNeil, along with Pastor John as the alternate, will be presented to the congregation for a vote at the March 22 Congregational Meeting.

- Lay Leadership Chair: This position is still vacant. Please let Pastor John or Chad Greer know of any recommendations. Jeff Hartmann suggested sending out a communication about the vacancy to see if someone might volunteer.
- Chad reminded everyone to send in committee reports prior to each council meeting and to print out and bring reports with you. Copies will not routinely be supplied at the meeting.

### **Pastor John's Report**

Pastor John commented on the "note" at the bottom of his report. Lutherhill's upcoming capital campaign will dovetail with Hosanna's capital campaign along with the ELCA's 3 year capital campaign. Our Synod had decided to tithe 10% of the Lutherhill capital campaign to the ELCA's campaign. Pastor John proposed that we look at recommending to the congregation that a percentage (perhaps 2-3%) of our next capital campaign be donated to the Lutherhill/Synod campaign (we would be supporting the ELCA campaign through the Synod's tithing). He asked that we prayerfully consider this. Pastor John will meet with the Forward in Faith with Vision finance team since this proposal would need to be coordinated with them along with the congregation.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance:** Ron Christ reported that January has been a down month in receipts combined with some onetime expenses falling early in the year. Ron then asked Jeff Hartmann to speak to the building repair needs. Jeff reported he is currently researching utilizing a professional company to evaluate our building for needed repair/replacement projects and the estimated costs of such recommendations. Ron Christ then said once the building needs were proposed, the finance team can evaluate our financial position.

Ron presented a proposal for approval to council that was recommended by the IRS to make a name change on the two existing African Initiative bank accounts:

**To insure the names shown on the bank accounts carry no possible tax or legal implications by their wording, Ron Christ and George Posey would like to change the name of the following bank accounts, while all other aspects of the bank accounts will remain the same:**

**Amegy Bank Account 0030110531 from Hosanna Lutheran Church of Houston, Texas African Initiative, to Hosanna Lutheran KSF and Social Impact. This will remain a savings account.**

**Amegy Bank Account 0030158534 from Womencraft Social Enterprise to Hosanna Womencraft. This will remain a checking account.**

President Greer called for a motion to approve these two changes. Motion was made by Pastor John Boldt, seconded by Pam Wells. All in favor – motion approved.

**Care Team:** Sharon Lindquist reported ongoing IHN issues and stated that Nickie Brooks is to meet with the IHN coordinator, Karen Wheatley. Pastor John shared that he recently attended an IHN meeting at NAM and learned that the current IHN program is to be phased out over the next 6 months and a new program is to be developed to meet the client's needs.

One issue during the last rotation at Hosanna concerned a family that had to purchase their evening meal because of a pork allergy. Chad Greer called for a motion to reimburse the family up to \$50 for

their meal expenses using IHN funds. Motion made by Pastor John, seconded by Heather McNeil. Motion passed.

### **Discipleship**

Sue Loudermilk asked for the council's input regarding the team's evaluation of Sunday morning education for the children. The team is concerned about the dwindling attendance at Godly Play and Children's Choir and is considering moving Godly Play to the Kid's Church time during worship with 3 age appropriate classes being offered. After much discussion, Chad suggested a special Task Force of parents and volunteers be developed to look at the needs and concerns. Sue will put the Task Force together.

### **Staff Support**

Team Leader Maureen Kennedy was unable to be present. However, council was asked to continue to remember in prayer the search for a Family Life Director to replace Marquette Henderson.

### **Mission Focus**

Heather McNeil reported that volunteers went to Eichenroht Monday through Thursday of this week during Hosanna's Servant Week. The Mission Focus Team is looking forward to the March 7<sup>th</sup> Service Day. Due to illness Heather was unable to provide a written report.

### **Stewardship**

Jeff reported the Spring Workday will be Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>. He requested prayer for the long range planning and goals of the congregation.

### **Any Other Business**

The next Congregational Meeting will be on March 22, 2015. The Crew will provide lunch at this meeting as a fund raiser for their summer trip to the National Youth Gathering.

Chad asked that everyone check their email address they are using for him since he had not received reports sent prior to this meeting.

### **Lord's Prayer**

Led by Pastor John and Chad Greer the Council prayed together the Lord's Prayer.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by President Greer at 12:57 p.m.

**Note:** Thank you to Sue Loudermilk for taking the minutes in my absence.

Karrie Jenkins  
Council Secretary

