

Congregational Council Happenings

April 19, 2011

- The meeting opened with a devotional and prayer by Pastor Kirk.
- Minutes of the March 22nd meeting were approved.
- Council received thank you notes from American Red Cross for our support of their food pantry, from the Department of Veterans Affairs for Valentine's Day cards and from the Lower Susquehanna Lutheran Synod for our 2010 benevolence. Council also received an invite to attend Pastor Bill Beck's surprise ordination anniversary party at Christ Roth's, a letter from HACC (Hanover Area Council of Churches) concerning the 2011 Baccalaureate service, and a letter requesting quilt donations for the Margaret E. Moul House fundraiser auction in September.
- Pastor submitted his written report and a report from the merger task force. In preparation of the merger, council motioned and approved offering an option of grape juice for members. Council also approved making room for the chancel furniture on the fellowship stage and other keepsakes of St. Paul as needed. Council further approved increasing our handicap parking and seating section by placing two more signs on the semi-circle entrance and replacing one pew for a shorter pew on the right side of nave.
- The Treasurer reported the financial accounting for the first quarter of 2011. The good news is that expenses are \$5,000 dollars less then last year at this time, however the bad news is that contributions are also \$5,000 less then last year at this time. In all, like previous years, we are running a deficit of approximately \$21,500.
- A special review task force will be having their first meeting in May to review current ministry job descriptions to recommend ways to improve the efficiency of the church operations and ministry.
- Finance Committee reported they are in the midst of reviewing and reducing the 2011 budget by 10% and hosting an Operations Fund weekend on April 30th and May 1st as requested by the congregation at the February Special Congregation meeting. Furthermore, finance recommended cutting expenses by limiting the newsletter to four pages, offering them on-line, offering copies here at church, and only mailing out to those who request it mailed. In addition, Finance recommended using on-line bill paying to limit mailings of 5-8 bills a week. And finally Finance recommended that the church stop mailing additional reminders of membership involvement since it is in the newsletter already, and can be posted online and other places. The Council motioned and approved all these changes, with the idea that the newsletter changes be communicated properly to the congregation in May and June for the change to take effect in July.
- It was noted that the Community Aid clothing bin drop-off has been placed in the church parking lot. This program is local and is partnered with HACC to provide clothes and funds from proceeds of the store's sales.
- Property Committee noted that a recent donation of four higher commodes were received and that we give thanks to Steve Zinn for volunteering to install these commodes in the church bathrooms. We also give thanks to Bob Bish for completing the wonderful work in the fellowship hallway.
- Worship and Music discussed upcoming dates and planning worship services. It was also noted that the planter boxes will be put back up with purchased Palm Trees and plants - Pastor noted a special thank you to Mary Berry for covering the cost of those plants as a memorial to her parents. A hymn survey will be included in the May newsletter and other copies will be available in the narthex for members to fill out.
- Under old business, pastor explained that the Audio Task Force is still seeking bids from companies as requested by the council. The task force still has the two proposals from last year and are awaiting two additional proposals from two company's visits. A fifth company is still being contacted and arranged for a site visit. The council's idea was to find six bids and develop a pattern of the best choice. But the difficulty is finding eligible companies in the area that can do the work and still be available afterwards for service if needed. In addition each company brings their own perspective and design style which raises simply more questions, and we may need to review the use of a third party audio engineer to give us a clear plan of action.

