

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2011

The Council met on December 20, 2011 beginning at 7:30 p.m. A copy of the meeting agenda is attached.

Those in attendance were: Mark Baker, Juli Benson, Rev. John Bradford, Deb Cantrell, Kary Froscheiser, Bill Hiatt, Donna Kiffe, Mitch Neaves, Peter Saba, Charles Schwab, Liz Spoto, Victoria Wagner, and David Whelan. Absent were: Tom Cooper, Ernie Ferguson, and Mike Swineford.

The Council gathered initially in the sanctuary. Rev. Bradford led a devotional based on the "Power Surge" program he has been introducing to the congregation.

David Whelan called the business portion of the meeting to order in Luther's Lounge.

The Council approved the minutes of the November meeting subject to a few minor revisions. A copy of the minutes as revised is attached.

Rev. Bradford submitted a written Pastor's Report. A copy is attached.

Deb Cantrell presented a brief Youth and Family Ministry Report. She noted the need for greater focus on faith issues within families as the foundation for a strong family ministry.

Mike Swineford was absent and there was no Church Administrator Report.

Bill Hiatt presented the Treasurer's Report. A copy is attached. Mr. Hiatt:

- * noted that as of Nov. 30 the church was at 89.15% of income and 93.69% of expenditures as compared to the 92.0% point in the 2011 annual budget;
- * noted that in November the church had a positive cash flow of \$62.02;
- * projected a positive cash flow in December based on income of \$65,000 to date -- the best collections ever for this point in the month -- and the possibility of the church operating with a cash surplus for 2011; and
- * noted that as of Nov. 30 the church had a cash balance of approximately \$40,000 but that current monthly obligations exceed this balance.

Mr. Hiatt raised the question of whether the amount paid by the King's Kids Preschool each month to cover occupancy and other costs (currently \$325) should be re-evaluated since that amount had not been discussed for many years. The Council discussed this issue and agreed that the Executive Committee would address the monthly charge with the Preschool board and develop an appropriate formula for an improved cost sharing allocation.

The Council also agreed that the Executive Committee would work with Mr. Hiatt to develop an expense threshold level beyond which Council approval would be required prior to the expense being incurred.

There was no report from the Executive Committee.

On approval of a motion by Victoria Wagner, the Council agreed to dispense with additional committee reports so that most of the remainder of the meeting could be devoted to the key areas of stewardship and the 2012 budget process. However, the following brief committee issues were discussed:

- * Liz Spoto noted on behalf of the Learning Committee that in the future vacation bible school would be held at Christ the King every year, not in alternating years, to better foster participation by Christ the King parishioners and to develop greater continuity. The church will invite St. Francis Episcopal Church to continue joining us in vacation bible school under this arrangement.
- * Donna Kiffe noted on behalf of the Fellowship Committee that the Christmas party was a success with about 85 people in attendance. She also noted that the next "Brady Brunch" would be held on Sunday, January 15, again hosted by Annette and Tom Brady.
- * Pastor Bradford noted that on January 15 CTK would, on behalf of the Great Falls Ecumenical Council, host an afternoon service in recognition of a day of prayer for Christian unity.
- * Juli Benson offered a written report on behalf of the Service Committee. A copy is attached.

Turning to new business, the Council discussed the fact that stewardship pledges had been received from 86 families for a total of \$440,083, as compared to a total of 96 pledges for \$440,000 for all of the prior year. David Whelan noted that the stewardship campaign was still ongoing and additional pledges are expected.

The Council discussed plans for the congregation's annual meeting to be held on February 5, 2012, including the required notice to the congregation and deadlines for committee submissions for the annual report.

The Council devoted considerable time to discussion of planning for the 2012 budget. The Council agreed that it would be preferable to have the budget approved before the fiscal year (the calendar year) begins, which would require beginning the budget process in the Fall and holding the congregational annual meeting before the end of the calendar year. Steps will be taken to make this change for future years.

The Council also agreed to adopt Pastor Bradford's recommendation to move toward a "missional spending plan" model of budgeting in which the budget reflects the financial needs for fulfilling Christ the King's ministries, rather than the ministries being trimmed to fit whatever

is pledged in the stewardship campaign. Under this approach, the Council will make a realistic assessment of ministry spending needs and then present them to the congregation to seek the necessary giving. The congregation will be asked to "step up" to ministry spending needs and to consider the impact of cuts in ministry programs if giving does not match the missional spending plan. In adopting to this approach, the Council agreed that for the 2013 budget and going forward in subsequent years the budget process will begin in last Summer, the stewardship campaign will begin in September, and the annual meeting will be held in early December. The underlying goal of this approach will be to focus the church on mission, not just spending, and to develop more ongoing communication with the congregation throughout the year about Christ the King's financial needs to support its missions.

Using the missional spending plan model, the Council discussed various committee budget requests based on the corresponding areas of the Christ the King's ministries. It was agreed that the Executive Committee would meet to develop a full proposed missional spending plan for consideration by the full Council at its January 2013 meeting. It was further agreed that Pastor Bradford would develop a list of financial needs that would be associated with adoption of a contemporary worship service.

The meeting was then adjourned.