

# **St. Matthew's Quarterly Congregational Meeting**

## **July 24, 2003**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Don Weltzien and opened with devotion by Pastor Schroeder.

The members in attendance are listed on a separate page attached to these minutes. 54 voting members were present.

A motion was made, second and carried to approve the minutes from the May 14<sup>th</sup> and the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Voters meeting; and the minutes from the April 24<sup>th</sup> quarterly congregational meeting.

### **Membership Changes:**

A motion was made, second and carried to receive as communicants by confirmation, by transfer, by profession of faith, and by adult confirmation; also to dismiss by transfer and by removal, the individuals listed on a separate page attached to these minutes.

Andy Rosenthal and Jonathan Leverage were received as new voting members.

### **Unfinished Business**

Report on FIC/FIO: Nothing new to report. We haven't closed on the land yet; they are still working on the zoning.

### **New Business**

Neil distributed and discussed his report on the St. Matthew's Ministry Plan. He talked about how the Ministry Plan was created, beginning with the leadership retreat at Luther Prep and the brainstorming that was done. The plan was drafted to support the St. Matthew's mission statement. Neil went over the top three goals for each Board and discussed this year's theme "Stewards of our faith...Pass it on!" He went through each quarter of the plan and the special events and programs that will take place in that time period.

A motion was made, second and carried to cast a unanimous vote for the 3 individuals in the three open Board positions on the ballot.

A motion was made, second and carried to use \$25,000 from the sale of the Park Street parsonage (an estimate of what came from operational funds to build the parsonage) to pay the congregation's remaining 2002 synod mission offering obligation of \$12,855, the interest due on the loan from the memorial trust fund (\$319), and the remaining funds paid against our line of credit obligation at the bank (\$11,826).

A motion was made and second to not accept the current LLHS Financial Aid Request proposal. The following points were discussed:

- St. Matthew's should always financially support the High School Christian Education of a child independent of the parents' contributions to the church or their financial income.
- The letter that went out to the Lakeside parents offended many of them when they were requested to show what their income was by providing a W-2 statement. It was commented that financial income should not be a determining factor. This should not be like a college financial aid request. We do not do that to our families of our day school whose education is also

subsidized by our congregation. It was pointed out that it is the decision of the congregation to support the education of our Lutheran Elementary School; it's our main focus.

- Discussion on Federation membership. We are still interested in becoming a Federation member but cannot financially support their fund drive along with or own at the same time. The cost is too high.
- Will this application process turn people away from Lakeside?
- It was mentioned that the process was put together quickly so that it could be used this year, that many of the parents had already met with the Board of Ed chairman (Steve) and that proof of financial need was never requested. Steve would have removed that request from the letter but it had already gone out to the families.
- The main goal of the process is trying to make the Lakeside parents aware of the gift that they are receiving so that they will examine themselves and their worship attendance and stewardship efforts. Not to cut back or eliminate any funds from the Lakeside tuition subsidy. This is not a budgeted item that is fixed or will be reduced.

Don mentioned that if you pass this motion the program would be thrown out in its entirety. If you like the idea, but not the whole program, then we can amend it to make it more favorable. The motion to not accept the program failed.

A motion was made and second to adopt the resolution, discussion followed:

- The program would really only address three situations: If the parents and the child had good attendance/stewardship or if only the child had good attendance/stewardship or if neither had good attendance/stewardship. It should identify those who are receiving the subsidy but are not good stewards or have poor attendance.
- The program is doing Elders work and it should not focus on that. A program should be set up similar to the one that is going to be used with the LES parents. One that will cover church attendance and Stewardship, it will let the parents know what they are receiving as a member of St Matthew's and what their responsibilities are to support the church and school.
- This would be an opportunity to encourage our parents to become active in Stewardship.

The motion to adopt the resolution as written failed.

A motion was made, second and carried to provide the Lakeside tuition subsidy to all parents for the 2003-04 school year, and the Board of Ed to continue to work, and come back with a process that would educate the Lakeside parents on their stewardship/worship responsibilities and be more favorable and clear for 2004-05 school year.

A motion was made, second and carried to approve:

- 1) A tuition subsidy for Hope children for the 2003-04 school year of \$1,000 for students in grades 1-8; \$500 for kindergarteners and \$333 for pre-K. The parents of the Hope children and/or Hope Lutheran Church will be responsible for the remaining tuition.
- 2) The same tuition subsidy for the 2003-04 school year for children of other WELS congregations enrolled in our Lutheran Elementary School.
- 3) The "SMLS Enrollment Fees Schedule for 2003-2004".

A motion was made, second and approved to direct the offerings from the Debt Retirement envelopes in the immediate future toward the repayment of our obligation to the Memorial Trust Fund.

A request was made to here the financial reports before voting on the recommendations of the Salary Review Committee.

### **Financial Secretary:**

A motion was made, second and carried to approve the Financial Secretary's report as presented. Discussion on the monies that were collect in the special offering to pay back the 2003 Synod

Mission obligation and why they were put into Reimbursement Deposits and not considered as UB contributions. If they were UB offerings they would have been subject to the 10% Synod obligation and we would pay an additional \$1,800 to Synod for those contributions.

A motion was made and second, to consider the special offering monies as UB Contributions and pay an additional 10% on that amount to Synod. The motion failed.

**Treasurer:**

A motion was made, second and carried to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

If we continue with the offering trend line and have no other unforeseen expenses, we should be able to eliminate our line of credit debt by the end of the year.

A motion was made, and second to adopt the recommendations of the Salary Review Committee, discussion followed:

- Provisions were made to increase Ed fee's to cover the increase in the salaries of our called workers. The Fee's went up, we should be able to give our called workers some type of increase.
- The Health insurance increases over the past two years have been significant and the salary increases were also very good in a time when many people have been laid off or had their wages frozen.
- We are still paying below the Synod average, not to mention what the local average salary is for a teacher. We need offer similar compensation.

The motion to adopt the recommendation passed.

A motion was made, second and carried that Andy Rosenthal be granted a parsonage and housing allowance of \$15,000 designated as part of his ministerial compensation for 2003.

A motion was made, second and carried to approve all of the reports as presented in the packet.

**Board of Education:**

No additional report

**Board of Elders:**

No additional report.

**Board of Outreach:**

No additional report.

**Board of Stewardship:**

Dale Mackdanz discussed a stewardship program that will take place this fall. The idea is to get everyone involved and enthused to participate in this stewardship/outreach program. There will be various activities that all can participate in including a special worship service. More information will be provided and volunteers requested as the plan begins to be rolled out.

**Board of Trustees:**

No additional report.

**Pastors:**

No additional report.

**Mr. Ziel:**

No additional report.

**Synod Communicator:**

No additional report.

**Memorial Trust Fund:**

No additional report.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Todd Helwig, Secretary