

St. Matthew's Quarterly Congregational Meeting

January 27, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Don Weltzien and opened with devotion by Pastor Schroeder.

The members in attendance are listed on a separate page attached to these minutes.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2004 quarterly congregational meeting. Motion carried.

Membership Changes:

A motion was made, seconded and carried to receive by transfer, and by adult confirmation the individuals listed on a separate page attached to these minutes.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to dismiss by transfer, by release and by removal the individuals listed on a separate page attached to these minutes.

Grover Zwieg, John Leverenz and Dan Hatcher were received as new voting members.

Election of Officers and Board Members:

The following members were elected to the open positions;

Board of Outreach – Dan Hatcher

Board of Stewardship – Jason Cox

Head Usher – Jeff Andrae

Nominating Committee – Jim Fulmer, Andy Portale, Roger Reichert, Art Weise, and Ralph Schidt, Jr.

Reports:

The 2003 Auditing Committee:

The findings and recommendations of the committee are on a separate sheet attached to these minutes. The committee does not expect the recommended changes to happen right away but should be implemented over time. Any recommended changes should not be taken as criticism of members involved in our finances. They also recommended that the audits be done on a more timely basis. There were several questions from the floor regarding item #1 of the committee's report recommending that all funds be funneled through the Financial Secretary. Don Weltzien announced that an Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to look into our finances and processes used. There was a motion made and seconded to accept the committee's report. Motion carried. The 2004 Auditing Committee will be meeting this coming Saturday and will have a report for the next congregational meeting.

Financial Secretary:

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Financial Secretary's report as presented.

Treasurer:

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

Board of Education:

A donation was received to purchase an AED (automatic external defibrillator) for the school. This will be purchased soon.

The Board is working on updating the policy handbook.

The Board has met with representatives of Hope Lutheran in an effort to increase communication.

Board of Elders:

The Board continues their work on returning delinquent members to the church. The Board is re-thinking using communion attendance as the criteria for delinquency. It was reported that the ACTS teen group is also tracking attendance in church and bible study. These two groups will share their information.

The Board is considering re-evaluating the job descriptions for the pastors and pastoral assistants.

Board of Outreach:

The Board continues to look for ways to use the new school as an outreach tool.

The Board along with Shepard's Staff will be showing "The Passion of the Christ" in church on February 12. This will be advertised through out the community.

Two mailings will be sent out to residents in the "P" and Brown St area inviting them to Holy Week services and Fellowship Breakfast on Easter morning. There will also be a door-to-door campaign in the same area.

Board of Stewardship:

A letter of encouragement has been received from one of our members and will be published in the church newsletter.

The Board will be working with Board of Outreach on their door-to-door campaign in the area around the new school property.

The Board is working on developing a job description for the Fellowship Committee.

Board of Trustees:

No report.

Pastors:

The pastors reported that these are exciting times around St. Matthew's. There are more adults attending bible study, teens are getting involved in a number of things, and many things are going on behind the scenes.

Mr. Ziel:

Mr. Ziel reported that the present enrollment is 147 with 8 full time staff members, 3 part time staff, and numerous volunteers.

The faculty is working on a number of items:

1. Trying to keep costs down
2. Developing and outreach mindset.
3. Keeping the curriculum current (what to add, what to take out).
4. Meeting the needs of the whole family.
5. Meeting the challenge of varying student needs.
6. Adjusting services offered to meet the needs of our families (i.e. day care).

Mr. Ziel also reminded everyone of some of the blessings we have been given:

1. A curriculum rooted in Christ.
2. 350 Christ-centered devotions each year.
3. Each subject is taught in light of God's word.
4. Student led parent-teacher conferences.
5. Great kids and great parents.

He reported that he has been asked why we need a new school if enrollment is declining. He listed several reasons:

1. To give our kids a quality Christian education.
2. To assist the parents with Christian education.
3. The present school is outdated and is running out of room.
4. There must be a paradigm shift. Synod-wide enrollment is declining – more mission statements are being written – outreach is more being considered a school function. We are in an area where families will be looking for values and safety in schools.

Synod Communicator:

No additional report.

Memorial Trust Fund:

It was reported that the market was down in 2004 and that we saw a greater than 11% return on investments in 2004. So far in 2005 it is approximately 17%.

Unfinished Business:**Rooted in Christ**

No report.

New Business:

There was a motion made and seconded that we adopt the Fee Structure for the 2005 – '06 school year at our elementary school as printed and attached. It was asked whether the higher fees would keep people from sending their children to our school. One member suggested that teacher benefits be cut in order to keep fees down. After all discussion was done the motion carried.

It was reported that the resolution and agreement with Hope Lutheran is being fine-tuned. Discussion will continue with Hope in order to finalize the agreement. There were questions on how the document was received by Hope and whether we are driving a wedge between the two congregations. It was stated that better communications need to be established with Hope. This works both ways.

It was reported that there would be no more talks with the YMCA concerning mutual use of our property on Hwy. "P".

One of our members was trying to acquire land adjacent to the school playground for future development. This has fallen through and will not be happening.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rik Krahn, Secretary