

OSSEO EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

May 17, 2017

I The REGULAR MEETING OF THE OELC COUNCIL WAS CALLED TO ORDER by President Betty Ward at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Members present were: Betty Ward, Brett Jensen, Carol Dodge, Caroline Tietjens, David Lundberg, Erin Everson, Jody Groell, John Haugen, Mary Jo Halverson, and Thea Vojtik. Members absent were: Maria Paulus, and Traci Loonstra. Church Staff present were: Pastor Terry Lorenz, Les Munnik, Molly Vold, and Jim Newman.

II DEVOTIONS were led by Erin Everson

IV TOPICS OF THE DAY

A. Bold Generosity—Bishop Hoyme, Arnie Rongstad, Joe Tietjens (Representing the Endowment Committee)

Bishop Hoyme and Arnie Rongstad were invited to the Council Meeting to share more information about the Bold Generosity Campaign and answer questions the Council and Endowment Committee had in regard to this Capital Campaign. Bold Generosity was first presented to the Council at the April 12, 2017 Council Meeting. (See April 12, 2017 Council Minutes for an overview of this Campaign.) New information that Bishop Hoyme shared included:

- This Appeal/Capital Campaign is just in our Synod and is a collaboration with the 199 congregations of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. On Saturday, May 21, 2016, at the Annual Synod Assembly, the voting members passed a resolution that would jumpstart this three-year, 1.2 million dollar capital campaign.
- Distribution of monies: Synod Council will make that determination
- There will be a committee developed for each of the six ministries of Bold Generosity. Each committee will be responsible for that area.
- Flexible: Congregations and individuals can choose areas to donate to.
- Congregations and individuals will need to decide by the end of September if they are going to be participating in the Bold Generosity. (More specific information will be coming from the Synod in regard to that date.) The monetary pledges could be paid over one, two, or three years.

B. Northwest Assembly Report: Linda Ness, Allyson Barka, and Carol Dodge

The Theme of the Assembly was: GETTING THE WORD OUT: "I WILL BOLDLY INVITE ONE MORE!" The goal for our Synod is to get the word out to more people about the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all of us "INVITING ONE MORE TO CHURCH in Jesus Name. Many congregations are struggling with a decline in worship attendance. As a result, pastors of congregations where attendance is growing spoke to the Assembly sharing ideas that have been helpful in their congregations in raising attendance. Some of those ideas are:

- What is our **vision**? Is our vision clear, bright, centered on Jesus? Each church needs a VISION STATEMENT as well as a MISSION STATEMENT. Make these statements well known to the Congregation. Live your Vision!
- Relentless hospitality. Church needs to have a feeling of home...What is the spirit of our church? Is it a happy environment? Do we have a Warm/Welcoming/Friendly feeling in our church?
- Serving others through Christ
- Know God is in our midst and is moving
- Have GREAT EXPECTATIONS for our church.

- Be authentic/real. What works for one church may not be a good fit for another.
- Family Worship includes Community, Jesus Christ as the center, Children, and even Chaos.
- Child Faith Connection---Incorporating children and family in church and Sunday School (Pastor Keith Anderson, Zion Lutheran, Woodville, Wis., is a resource for this.)
- “Family Connect” in the Sunday School program---Giving Sunday School and High School kids more opportunity to be involved in the worship service. (Pastor Keith Anderson is a resource for this.)

The **Bold Generosity Capital Campaign** was discussed. Bishop Hoyme is scheduling “Bishop Coffees” with the pastors in the Synod to continue discussion on this campaign.

The importance of **World Hunger** was highlighted. Why should we continue participation in World Hunger?---
---Jesus tells us in Mark 6 (The Feeding of the 5,000): “You give them something to eat.” -----

ELCA Church wide Report: Reverend Ron Glusenkamp from ELCA stressed that our church goals should include Congregation Vitality and Leadership.

Malawi Update: Famine Relief ends now as the crops have come in, but there is concern that these crops will not be sustainable. The “Never Ending Food Program” and permaculture are two programs that have been developed to help PREVENT famine in Malawi. Assembly members were reminded that we all are lifesavers in this fight against famine. Along with general monetary giving to Malawi, members were reminded of other places donations could go such as God Stock, Well Fund, and Bed Nets.

(Allyson, Linda, and Carol asked if this could possibly be a future Noisy Offering contribution from OELC.)

Hidden Heroes: Chaplain Corp: A Military Caregiver Tool Kit is being developed. Goal is to bring hope and grace to all.

Outreach and Evangelism: “God’s Work/Our Voice” Outreach and Evangelism grants are available through the Synod. The grants are funded by ELCA.

Lutheran Social Services: Reverend David Larson was recognized for his work with the “Transitions” program which is a ministry of LSS located in Neillsville, Wis. This program is centered on girls 10-17 years old who have been victims of sex trafficking, offering them Hope and Healing. Find more information on “Transitions” on the LSS website: lsswis.org/transitions

Pastor Larson pointed out that these girls come to “Transitions” without a vision and that without a vision, people perish. He stressed that this lack of vision must be addressed at all levels of church: as Individual Christians, Congregations, Synods, ELCA. The offering at the Synod Assembly brought in over \$6,000 to go to support “Transitions”.

The following quote was heard at least three times during the Assembly by three different speakers and is quite powerful:

“When people are at their worst, we need to be at our best.”

Synod Important Dates:

March 17, 2018: Walking Together at UW-EC; **April 29, 2018:** 2018 Synod Assembly at Trinity in Eau Claire; **June 27, 2018-July1, 2018:** ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston Texas; **June 7 & 8, 2019:** 2019 Synod Assembly at UW-EC. A new bishop will be elected at the 2019 Assembly.

III SECRETARY'S REPORT:

- Minutes from the April 12, 2017 Council meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Brett Jensen and seconded by Jody Groell to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

V STAFF REPORTS:

A. Parish Administrator's Report: Nothing new to report this month.

B. Assistant Parish Administrator's Report: Deanna Klindworth

- Prior to the Council meeting, Deanna Klindworth provided the Council with month-end budget handouts, bills to be paid, and debt balances.
- Motion made to approve the financial report as printed was made by Jody Groell. Seconded by Erin Everson. Motion carried.

C. Pastor's Report: Pastor Terry

- Building Use and Fee Schedule. Pastor Terry, Jody Groell, and Erin Everson have begun working on this. Council members were given a rough draft of the Building Use/Fee Schedule and were asked to read through it. Discussion and action on it will take place at a later date.
- The ASP Commission Service has been rescheduled to Wednesday, June 7 and will be taking place during the Ignite Service.
- Visitations, Homebound members of OELC: Visiting Partners Program is part of this ministry. If an OELC member needs a visit from the Pastor, they should let Pastor Terry know.
- Pastor Terry and his family are in the process of moving into the parsonage.

D. Youth and Family Ministries---Les Munnik

- Caroline Tietjens reported on the ASP recent workshop. On April 26, 2016, ASP participants were able to review actual applications submitted to ASP for home repair. May 20th is the mandatory ASP construction workshop. Fifteen benches will be constructed.
- The first "Table of Friendship Community Meal" was held on May 10th. Over 100 people were served. The community meal program is sponsored by the newly formed Friendship Club.
- The Friendship Club is now a member of "Feed My People". There is a \$25 a year charge for this membership which allows OELC to get food from the food bank for the Community Meals. The menu for our first Community meal was scalloped potatoes and ham. The cost to put on this meal for 100 people was approximately \$25.
- The second Friendship Club social called the Spring Fling is scheduled for May 18, 2017.
- The Friendship Club is sponsoring a Brewers game on June 22, 2017. Cost is \$70 which includes the coach bus ride, box seat, and snacks on the bus. This trip is open to anyone.
- The ASP Steak Fry served 200 people. The meal and auction cleared about \$3500.
- Two \$500 C-YA Youth Scholarships have been awarded. The recipients are Kamaera Tiller and Ximona Pederson. Ten percent of all the C-YA Youth fundraisers goes into this scholarship fund. The scholarships are awarded based on community service work. A Team of five people from OELC chose this year's two recipients.
- ASP Commissioning Service will be Wednesday, June 7, 2017 in conjunction with the Ignite service. A meal will be served at 5:00 PM. Worship service will be in the sanctuary starting at about 6:30 PM.
- ASP volunteers will leave for Kentucky on Friday, June 9, 2017 at 7:30 AM. Pastor Terry will be leading the circle prayer. The group returns to OELC on Sunday, June 18th at approximately 5:00 PM.

- ASP Slide Show will be Wednesday, June 28th, 2017 in conjunction with the Ignite service. A spaghetti supper will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 PM for all the ASP stockholders, ASP participants, and Ignite worshipers. The worship service and slide show will be in the sanctuary starting around 6:00 PM.
- The ASP/C-YA budget was presented. Monies for the ASP trip are on track.
- Mentor/Mentee dinner and program was held on May 3, 2017. Mentors have commented that they like the Mentor/Mentee book as it guides them through the mentor process.
- The last day of Sunday School was Sunday, May 14, 2017. Mothers were recognized, children performed 4 songs, and Sunday School teachers were each presented an appreciation card and a plant as a thank you for their service.
- The High School Senior Breakfast will be held Sunday, May 21, 2017 following the worship service. Eleven High School Seniors from our church community have been invited along with their families.
- Les has hosted an informational meeting for the National Youth Gathering which is in Houston, Texas on June 27-July 1, 2018. Some scholarships are available. Interested youth are to talk to Les soon.
- Les has finished two on-line classes and has one more to go.

VI COMMITTEE REPORTS/MINISTRY UPDATES

A. Worship Committee: One Year Review of Ignite (Dave Lundberg)

- Discussion took place as to how Ignite is progressing financially, and how funds are handled in regard to Ignite. To date, 90% of the Ignite offering goes to Ignite and 10% goes to OELC.
- A three-part motion was made by Jody Groell and seconded by Mary Jo Halverson to: (1)Transfer \$1500 from Ignite to the General Fund to cover expenses incurred by OELC during Ignite's first year of existence. (2)After June 1, 2017, 50% of Ignite's offering will go to Ignite and 50% will go to OELC's General Fund. This formula replaces the original formula of 90% of Ignite offerings going to Ignite and 10% going to the OELC General Fund. (3)When considering the OELC Budget for 2018, a Line Budget Item will be added for Ignite. UCC and other churches involved with Ignite will be asked to do likewise. Motion carried.
- If an offering at Ignite is designated to the General Fund or another place, the offering will go to wherever it is designated.
- Concern was voiced in regard to how a baptism or communion would be handled at an Ignite service, or if a baptism or communion should be considered in an Ignite service. As Ignite grows, it raises an awareness of these issues. This is something that Ignite needs to think about. As of now, if such a situation comes up, go to Pastor Terry for direction.

B. Property Committee:

- John Haugen gave an update on the Parsonage Remodeling Project: basement floor has been laid, carpets are down
- Betty Ward gave an update on the parsonage window replacement and repair fundraiser. Contributions are still coming in.

C. Stewardship/Finance Committee: (Betty Ward)

- Sunday, April 30th Thrivent retirement workshop went well.
- Stewardship/Finance meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 21 following the worship service. The Council Executive Committee and a representative from each of the following committees are asked to attend: Youth & Family, Social Concerns, Worship, and Evangelism. Discussion will center on Stewardship plans for the fall and on how to get people more involved at church.

D. Personnel:

Council members were each given a copy of the OELC Personnel Policies rough draft. Council was instructed to look through this draft, and contact Traci Loonstra with any questions or concerns. The OELC Personnel Policies Handbook will need to be discussed and voted on at the June Council meeting.

VII NEW BUSINESS:

A. On-Line Giving was discussed. Motion was made by Dave Lundberg and seconded by Jody Groell to authorize Molly to research on-line giving programs, choose a program, and come back to council via e-mail for approval. The program chosen by Molly will be reevaluated in November, 2017. Motion carried.

B. Endowment Scholarship/s: Announcement of recipient/s will be made on Sunday, May 21, 2017

C. Little Parsonage Rental: Eventually we will be looking for renters

D. Mayo Clinic Contract for Lay Over Shelter: Mayo Clinic is asking that OELC's original contract from 2014 be replaced with a current contract for 2017. This contract reaffirms the commitment to the Disaster/Evacuation Reciprocal Agreement. Motion made by Erin Everson and seconded by Mary Jo Halverson to reaffirm OELC's commitment of reciprocal support the Mayo Clinic needs to meet the requirements for their Emergency Operations Plan. Motion carried.

E. Luther Park Fundraiser: Tabled

VIII OLD BUSINESS

A. Update Pastor Terry's benefits-Portico: Moving from Housing Allowance to Housing Equity goes into effect when Pastor Terry and family move into the parsonage. Motion made by Jody Groell and seconded by John Haugen to approve Pastor Terry's benefits move from Housing Allowance to Housing Equity effective June 1, 2017. Motion carried.

B. Building Use and Fee Schedule Policy: See discussion under Pastor's Report

C. Cyber Security: It was decided that this was not necessary as of now.

D. Heating—Sunday School wing: Tabled

IX MAY COUNCIL MEETING:

Next Council meeting is set for Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Devotions will be led by Carol Dodge.

X ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn without objection was made by Caroline Tietjens. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Carol Dodge, Council Secretary