

**Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Members Present:** Matt Dettmer, Julie Grunwald, Pastor Dan Doering, Pastor Roger Haug, Diane Beckmann, Julie Oslund, Brad Connors, Mark Christiansen, Mike Parry, Cap Peterson, Sarah DenOuden, Kent Schultz, Robin Dulas. Not Present: Matt Potter

Matt D. called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Pastor Dan led us in devotions.

Matt D. called for a motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

**SCRIP**-No report.

**Grace Garden**-No report. They are in the process of discussion on a new closing policy as it pertains to weather conditions.

**3<sup>rd</sup> GEAR**-Report submitted. **3<sup>rd</sup> Gear Wednesday Night** Based in St John's Youth Room in January and February. Space in the Youth Room has become a slight issue (great issue to have!). Former 3<sup>rd</sup> Gearian, Kyle Johnson visited in January and talked about his experience in the Army Reserves. Kids are getting hit hard spiritually as they have been digging deep into some of the Parables Jesus used in His ministry. Approximately 30 kids are coming on a regular basis with Sondra Herman and Britney Musolf being the consistent adult presence. **3<sup>rd</sup> GEAR MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS ARE HEADING EAST!** Youthworks, Inc. closed the Las Vegas site recently and suggested our group go to Lynn/Boston, MA. Notice of the change of site went out immediately via postcards and Facebook, Sunday announcements, and emails. 3 more adults have expressed interest and have been given applications. The New name for the trip is **BOS'10!** Super Bowl Pizzas Far From a Cheesy Fundraiser!! Mission Trip participants and their families filled pizza orders on Saturday, Feb. 6. More than double the number of pizzas were made this year (compared to 2009). Money is still being collected - profits from this fundraiser are estimated at \$1800...twice the amount as last year. 3<sup>rd</sup> Gear Jesus Band! - 10 eager and talented young people gathered for the very first practice of a praise band. A praise band workshop is tentatively being scheduled with Taylor Wilson, a worship leader from Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Bloomington. March 17<sup>TH</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Gear Hotdish Buffet for Lenten Dinners at Grace & St John. *3rd Gear Wednesdays return to The Garage in March.* I will be on vacation from February 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> I will be having surgery that calls for a 2 week recovery.

A motion was made to accept the above reports. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Treasurer's Report**-Report submitted. We have added the budget figures so we can track our expenses and donations for each month. January was a lean month for giving. Expenses were in line except for a few. Our snow plowing bill (which is under landscaping expenses was double what was budgeted) and benevolence was not paid in January. Otherwise a normal month for expenses. A comparison of the last three years shows a decline in giving for the month of January. Expenses have been steady except for 2009. The year started with about \$10,000 in the checkbook so a decline in giving is going to use this balance fairly quickly. There is still the contingency fund balance of \$20,000 but would like to keep that for the summer months when giving is significantly down. A motion was made to accept this report. The motion was seconded and approved.

The following reports are approved via a consent agenda format. A motion was made to accept the following reports. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Property Ministry Team**-Report submitted. The property ministry team met and discussed several items. One item was new chairs for the social hall. After further investigation the cost of new chairs would be approximately \$6,500.00. This was reported to GWELCA and it was agreed this idea would be tabled for now. The ministry building was discussed as far as the insulation in the attic and also installation of a new thermostat. The roof on the old sanctuary was discussed and we decided not to pursue anything with it until spring. We will be cleaning snow out from behind the bell tower and chimney when necessary. An account under memorials has been set up for exterior doors on the parsonage so they can be replaced in the spring. We will be removing snow from the flat roof on the addition of the church on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**Management Ministry Team**-Report submitted. The management team met last week and things are going relatively smoothly and all reviews for the office staff are completed. We are focused on constantly looking at expenses and asking "is this necessary" and inventorying our thoughts.

**Stewardship Ministry Team**-No report. Pastor Roger added that a letter with a pledge card will be sent out to members in the next week. Pastor Roger's front page of the February newsletter focused on stewardship. Pastor Roger will meet with Mike Parry and discuss a time to have Blair Anderson come and speak on the topic of stewardship.

**Worship Ministry Team**-No report. This team has been without an official chairperson. Julie Oslund, as new chair, will organize and regroup. Pastor Roger added that Craig Brendan will be directing the choir and the worship ministry team will use endowment funds to purchase a dampner for the piano and (2) CD players.

**Evangelism Ministry Team**-Report submitted. Pajamas were delivered to CADA - a great response from the congregation. New member class has been scheduled for February 27. Members are being asked to be mentors. We will follow up with the welcome brunch. The prayer vigil is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>. Invitations for Lenten suppers have been sent out. To date, we have 3 groups scheduled for the 5 Lenten services. Pastor Dan is researching a widow ministry program to reach out to those who have lost their spouse. Food shelf is going well, enough volunteers and food items at this time. The evangelism ministry team is also looking for several more groups to host the Wednesday night Lenten suppers.

**Education Ministry Team**-Report submitted. The education ministry team met and discussed the following: We are currently looking for Second Grade Shepherd's for Sunday school for the rest of the year. On President's weekend, regular rotational Sunday

school will be replaced by Multi-Generational Sunday School. We discussed campaigning in April for Sunday School Teachers for 2010-2011 year and pre-registration for Sunday school. We also talked about the possibilities of having an end of the Sunday School year celebration. Faith Steps facilitated by Dave and Lori DeMars will be meeting with the Eighth grade in February. The topic will be "What's your language". 3<sup>rd</sup> Gear Ski Trip to Afton Alps is set for February 12<sup>th</sup> from 7 am to 4 pm. 3<sup>rd</sup> Gear trips to Las Vegas are scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> to June 28<sup>th</sup> for the first group and July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup> for the second group. VBS will be held at Grace Lutheran this year. Dave and Lori DeMars have agreed to spear head this important ministry for our children. Thank you to the DeMars! Thank you to the entire Education Ministry Team for your hard work and attention to the needs of our congregation. Thank you to Sonja Highum for her past leadership of this team. I pray that God will guide my thoughts, words and deeds while serving on this committee.

**Pastor Dan**-Report submitted. Things are still moving forward at Grace. We continue to receive numerous calls on a weekly basis for assistance, and we are trying to streamline the process to address some of those needs and wants. I am currently working on the mid-week Lenten curriculum for our Confirmation students and their mentors. We will be talking about World Religions, and there will be two guest speakers who will talk about Islam and Judaism during the course. I am also doing some significant work on the new website for the church, and I hope to present a beta version of the site for you to look at by the end of next week. That's all (except I am done with the snow). Peace.

**Pastor Roger**-Report submitted. This is my pastoral report for January. I am lining up people to get out bulletins each Friday to shut-ins because the person doing that has left. I am also making sure that the 3 remaining lay communion servers are getting re-oriented to cover our precious shut-ins. A big thanks to Scott and Vicky Singelstad for hosting the annual council Christmas meal. It was such a nice and relaxing event. Thanks also to the Endowment Investment and Distribution teams for all their hard work. And Mark Christianson is a trooper. Please know that we are focused as Pastors to do the calls God has extended to us through you guys. Thank you for the privilege of serving all of you as best we can.

**Report on endowment funds**-Kent Schultz, endowment chair attended the council meeting. The first year the plan was to protect the principal and be conservative. The money is invested with Principal Financial Group/John Priebe. 4 ¾% was the target range of return which actually came in at approx. 6 ½%. \$350,000.00 was earned and \$100,000.00 distributed. For the new year the group will get into more equity funds in 2010. 100% is in income. By the end of 2010 the plan is for 75% income, 25% equity and 50/50 by the end of 2011. By the end of 2010 the group plans to have the Investment Policy written showing a description of the funds and investment objectives. Several council members voiced concern about the Investment Policy not being in place right now. Pastor Dan will discuss with the committee and see if the IP can be completed sooner. A motion was made to accept this report. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Council Action Items**-None

**Discussion Items**-The council again addressed resuming benevolence payments to the synod. The council had discussed resuming benevolence payments January 2010. To date and due to lack of funds, the payment of \$1,534.00 has not been made for January or February. A motion was made to postpone/suspend benevolence payments for Jan./Feb. until the March council meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. The council discussed whether to proceed or not proceed (as was published last fall with educational opportunities for members following the churchwide vote held in August 2009). Due to our congregational vote the following motion was made: A motion was made to discontinue discussion regarding the planning of further education on this subject. The motion was seconded and approved. The council discussed church closure policy. This discussion stemmed from the cancellation of the Christmas day service. It has been noted there is not an official policy on the cancellation/closing of the church. The following motion was made: Church services will not be cancelled. The decision to hold other events such as Sunday school will be up to the discretion of the Pastor's and the presiding council president.

**Old Business**-None

**New Business**-None

**Listening Post**-How are we doing on coordinating volunteers to fill vacancies? Robin offered that she has in place good money counters that are working on a rotational basis and this plan is working well. Other vacancies are being filled but we are always looking for more volunteers in all areas. There was also a question on a gift that was given to the senior choir. The past choir director was asked by the giver if the gift was received and they were told no. Robin explained that the gift was received and was put into the choir's account and this is standard procedure not to notify any specific individuals regarding donations and who gave them.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The motion was seconded and approved. We closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Grunwald  
Grace Lutheran Council Secretary