

Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church  
5801 Minnetonka Blvd.  
St. Louis Park, Minn. 55416

**Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church  
Church Council Minutes for March 10, 2011**

Attendance: Anne Kraft, Carolee Cohen, Dave Latvala, Sara Blood, Pastor Dan Ruth, Rod Gulbro, Bruce Wuollet, Jeanne Worm, Nancy Malone, Kevin Roetzer, Nicole Goerges, Steve Solmonson

**I. Devotions**

Council President Anne Kraft called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Pastor Dan Ruth opened with a prayer and Social Action Team Lead Jeanne Worm led in Devotions.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** to approve the March 10, 2011 agenda.

**Vote:** Approved. M/S/C

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** to approve the minutes for the Feb. 10, 2011 council meeting.

**Vote:** Approved. M/S/C

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Dave Latvala reported the balance through January was \$25,969.49. He reminded the council that funds have been set aside for the janitor who has not yet been hired. He also inquired as to why the insurance went up when Spirit of Christ (SOC) went down to one pastor. The synod benevolence has also been paid.

**V. Pastors Reports**

Pastor Wes Syverson shared his report via e-mail. A copy is included at the end of these minutes.

Latvala said he asked Syverson about the sound system. Worship & Music Lead Rod Gulbro noted the church may need to invest in some new equipment. The council agreed that Syverson should not be taking the lead on this, but could attend the initial appointments while he's in the office. EMI has been called to assess the sound system. Gulbro and LeRoy Murray will approach Syverson on this issue.

Gulbro will share the preaching schedule with the council.

Ruth and member Steve Solmonson, a student at Luther Seminary, will also share in preaching duties during Lent and while Syverson is on vacation.

Ruth provided an urban ministry update. He has two groups meeting. Activities have included conversation, reading and baking bread. Kraft asked council members to consider attending one of Ruth's groups, and Ruth cautioned that because the groups are small, visiting groups should not be too big. One of the groups meeting is looking for volunteering opportunities, which Ruth said may be a good opportunity to get members engaged with SOC's Social Action Team.

Ruth was also invited to go to a leadership event for the Southwestern Minnesota Synod where he was invited to speak on urban ministry at SOC. The word is getting out that SOC is trying to do some cool things and reaching outside its own walls, Ruth said.

Kraft invited Ruth to speak following a worship service about his experiences so far and how to engage younger generations to attend church. Gulbro also said it's good to explore how to make church more attractive for younger generations.

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Overnight Policy AND**

**B. Building Use Policy**

Kraft shared building request, building use and kitchen use forms Secretary Sara Blood developed based on forms she received from Wooddale Lutheran Church. Latvala is going to contact the church's insurance agency to see if the policy would cover a private function. Gulbro said private groups should be held responsible or sign a waiver of liability. Blood will incorporate suggested edits to the kitchen use form.

**C. Other Old Business**

None.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Council Installation – March 13**

Kraft reminded members the installation for the new council will be Sunday, March 13. A prayer will be held for all volunteers.

**B. Call Committee**

Latvala has volunteered to serve as chair of the call committee. Four members will also need to be identified. Member-at-Large Bruce Wuollet asked if the people who volunteered at the SOC annual meeting will be on the committee. Blood said those people will be provided information from the synod so they can make an informed decision on their commitment. Ultimately, the council agreed, the committee needs to represent a cross section of SOC's demographics.

Worm asked if SOC has a congregational profile. Kraft said she would contact the synod to see if one is on file or if it needs to be created.

**C. Adult Education – Steve S.**

Solmonson provided a recap on *The Hole in Our Gospel*, a six-week adult education program that approximately 20 members recently completed. Solmonson said the book opens our eyes as member of the body of Christ as to what we can do. Kraft said members who participated in the adult education program would like to continue the local blanket drive and begin raising money for a well in third world countries. Author Richard Stearns will also speak in Plymouth on March 19.

Solmonson said two books are being considered for after Easter, *When the World Takes the Wind Out of Your Sails* and *Connecting With God in a Disconnected World*. Solmonson also offered other options, such as a DVD series or movie nights during the summer months.

Council members thanked Solmonson for his efforts in starting up the adult education program again.

**D. Stewardship – Steve S.**

The council held a discussion on stewardship and how SOC has not held any stewardship campaigns but instead has focused on stewardship being “a way of life.” Members agreed that the stewardship letter in the newsletter should not always be written by Pastor Syverson.

**E. Constitution & Bylaws**

Kraft has been reviewing SOC’s constitution and bylaws and there are some discrepancies based on what’s filed with the synod. Issues include what constitutes a quorum, 35 or 50 members, as well as lengths of terms for council members and ministry team leaders. Kraft asked council members to review the constitution and bylaws and to contact her with any questions or edits. A congregational vote will be held to formally approve the changes at a later date, most likely when call committee members are recognized.

**VIII. Ministry Team Reports**

- A. Mission & Social Action:** Worm asked members to read the calendar and letter in the March newsletter.
- B. Children, Youth & Families:** Team Lead Nancy Malone said they are still looking for a youth leader.
- C. Worship & Music:** Gulbro reported that organizing the music library has gone slowly but surely. Everything is set up for Lent. Gulbro said he really liked how Syverson broke up the lessons during the Ash Wednesday service so the congregation could reflect on them.
- D. Fellowship:** Team Lead Nicole Goerges met with former team lead Joanne Stone to discuss a vision for fellowship. Home visits will be a focus.
- E. Other Reports**
  - i. Women of Spirit:** None.

- IX. **Next Council Meeting:** Thursday, April 14. Hospitality: Carolee Cohen
- X. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara N. Blood

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Pastor Wes Syverson's Report

Set up Lent. Presently working on Holy Week and Easter. We join with Wooddale for Lent beginning next Wednesday, we alternate Wednesday night with Wooddale beginning here. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be here. Easter services at 7:30AM and 10 AM.

Dan Ruth and Steve Solmonson will be preaching during Lent.

Continued monthly visits with shut-ins. Contacts with new move-ins.

Working with other pastors and community people for a May 21: St. Louis Park Community Service day.

Exploring ways to reach out to Young Adults. Exploring: "A question or two and a Brew" at Park Tavern as an outreach to people in St. Louis Park.

Checking into a sound system review and gathering proposals for a re-do.

Helping with Caring Youth as recognition for SLP youth. Hopefully we will have 3 participants from SOC.

Mission trip for youth is being planned for June. Beth Peterson will chaperone. Kayla Nordahl and Eric Sukram are working on it.