

**Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes for July 14, 2011**

*Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church*  
*5801 Minnetonka Boulevard*  
*St Louis Park, MN. 55416*

Attendance: Rod Gulbro, Kristina Fruge, Pastor Dan Ruth, Nancy Malone, Dave Latvala, Sara Blood, Carolee Cohen, Jeanne Worm, Anne Kraft, Bruce Wuollet, Pastor Wes Syverson, Kevin Roetzer

I. Devotions

President Anne Kraft called the meeting to order at 7. Pastor Wes Syverson opened with a prayer. Secretary Sara Blood shared the devotion.

II. Approval of Agenda

No additions to the agenda.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the June 2011 minutes as written with Marc Cohen's first name corrected.

**Vote:** M/S/C

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dave Latvala reported that the synod was paid. Expenses plus revenue are both down, which he said is typical for the summer months. The balance due on the EMI sound system has been paid. The Window fund to replace the windows is growing.

V. Pastors Reports

Pastor Dan Ruth is resigning from Spirit of Christ. His wife, Ellie, has been accepted to Sarah Lawrence College's creative writing M.F.A. program. They plan to move to New York in August. He will continue as social marketing manager at Lutheran World Relief. Those attending the council meeting thanked Ruth for his service at Spirit of Christ.

Ruth reported that he met with one of his community groups July 13, a second group that splintered off from the original group. They plan to meet again in August before Ruth leaves.

Later in the meeting, Blood asked Ruth how Spirit of Christ can help continue Ruth's ministry. Ruth reported that the community group is going to keep meeting. Ruth and his wife also plan to be in Minnesota this Christmas and next summer and they would like to keep a connection with the groups and Spirit of Christ.

Pastor Wes Syverson reported he is on vacation next week. He is going to start a summer brown bag Bible study 7 p.m. starting the first Wednesday in August to study the book of Ecclesiastes.

Syverson reported he was one of 200 who signed a letter saying the government closure was not a fiscal crisis but a moral one that is being sent to Minnesota leaders.

President Anne Kraft requested that the font on the weekly e-mail be changed. Blood suggested Arial.

## VI. Old Business

### a. Boiler Tune-Up

Kraft reported back that the boiler is in good shape. Efficiency is at 80 percent, and that there is no carbon monoxide issues.

### b. Other Old Business

Blood reported that she and member Steve Solmonson left a voice mail for Mary Sue Dreier, a professor at Luther Seminary, to see if Spirit of Christ can be one of the sites to receive a reading this fall.

## VII. New Business

### a. Sunday Fellowship

The Youth Group would like to be asked in advance if they are to serve on Sundays during fellowship, as well as receive help in clean up afterward. Syverson will make a reminder announcement at the next service.

### b. Strategic Planning

Syverson had asked task forces to answer a list of questions to establish a plan and to determine successes as well as challenges. Syverson asked what is happening, and what isn't as a church. Those attending the council meeting held a 30 minute discussion.

Kraft asked for council members to answer the question "who are we?"

- We are starting to be one church, which is a huge difference from two years ago. We are a unified body.
- The congregation knows it's independent of the pastors. It doesn't have to look to its leaders to find its identify.
- Spirit of Christ is a place that loves our kids.
- A community that knows that its mission is to serve.
- If members attend once a month, they feel like they've worshipped "a lot."
- Members who need to be invited to participate versus automatically volunteering themselves when there is a need.

Who is Spirit of Christ's neighbor?

- Anybody
- The Park. The Twin Cities. The World.

What has God called us to be?

- His ambassadors and servants here on this earth
- The Mission Statement: "In Christ we worship and grow in faith. And growing in faith as community, we reach out to serve."
- Caregivers

- Continually seek out different neighbors
- Does not need to be in a sanctuary
- Bridge builders to bring people together and create relationships.  
What can we learn from the consolidation to build other relationships?

Where do we want to be?

- What can improve upon? For example, can we improve our music?  
Can we have a praise music team?
- Listening, relating, greeting, action, listening again. Not just in our church, but throughout our community.
- What can we be doing to draw people to our church? For example, the communities Pastor Ruth ministers to.
- To be a place where adults “get it.” Space for the group to come together. Kids to “show up.” Where does Spirit of Christ need to show up for its youth as well as its neighbors outside of its four walls?
- We are heavy on the “serve,” but that we need to work on the “worship” and “grow.”
- Second service.
- More music, especially contemporary
- Having some sort of service in the week for those who can’t go to a service on Sundays

Immediate next steps:

- Mobilize worship and music team to look at adding more contemporary music to the worship service and the feasibility of a second service

c. Other New Business

Member-at-Large Bruce Wuollet said that a group would like to put framed photos from last year’s Ecuador trip near the entrance. Wuollet also asked that if any money has been sent to Chris and Kristin McWeeny this year. Latvala confirmed that no money has been sent this year.

**Motion:** to send the McWeeny’s \$500 out the Missions fund.

**Vote:** M/S/C

VIII. Ministry Team Reports

a. Mission & Social Action

Team Lead Jeanne Worm reported that 18 volunteers helped pack 24,000 meals for Feed My Starving Children. Families Moving Forward with Westwood Lutheran Church is slated for Wednesday, Aug. 24. 2,500 bags were distributed for the STEP Summer Food Drive. Volunteers will pick them up Saturday and sort the groceries.

The Walk for Wells is slated for October. Joanne Stone has contacted Reformation, Westwood and Wooddale churches to participate. Member Joanne Stone is going to work on permitting. Blood will help with publicity.

Latvala said there is \$1,900 leftover from the SPARK fund.

b. Children, Youth & Families

Team Lead Nancy Malone reported that the “Super Soggy Seven” marched in Parktacluar, and they have a list on what to improve upon for next year.

A youth group and Pastor Syverson traveled to Chicago for a missions trip and, while there, met with ELCA Bishop Mark Hanson, a highlight of the trip. The group will hold a special Chicago service Aug. 7. Three youth travel to Camp Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp the weekend of July 15.

On Aug. 29 the group will be meeting to clean up the classrooms in time for rally Sunday. Sunday School will be before worship at 9 and they'll be broken into three groups. A new youth dialog will be held the third Thursday of every month for the older students.

The youth are looking for a gently used couch for the youth room. A foosball table will also be donated for the room. They also will be working on compiling a chaperone list.

c. Fellowship

Kraft reported for Team Lead Nicole Goerges that the first summer gathering for young adults went well in June. A total of seven met. The group has scheduled dates in July and August to meet.

The Redeemer Jump Crew concert will be held in August and publicized as a community thank you concert for those who donated for the STEP drive.

d. Worship & Music

Team Lead Rod Gulbro reported that the sound system is in, and provided thoughts on starting a second service. He said his initial thoughts included that the second service should be held once a month during the week day, and that it should be lighter and airier than the current 10 a.m. traditional service.

e. Other Reports

i. Women of Spirit

No report.

ii. Mission Outreach Coordinator

Kristina Fruge reported that they are pulling together a report in August that will go before the councils of Spirit of Christ and Wooddale in September. The report will highlight what has come out of the last two years of research, as well as highlight ideas on how to minister the youth of St. Louis Park beyond those who sit in our pews on Sundays.

The listening tool is being finalized and has been renamed “ReVision: Bridging the Gap, Conversations With Youth in St. Louis Park.” Fruge is working with a designer to make it more

graphic, and it will be shared with the congregations of St. Louis Park as well as published online. A training for the listening tool will likely be held at Westwood in late October.

Frugé said the big learning from the entire project has been relationships, which are essential for young people to navigate through life, and that the churches involved know how to do this: to build relationships that are supportive, healthy and dynamic to help our youth and to encourage them to growth. Our challenge, Frugé continued, is to build relationships beyond the kids we are comfortable with, especially those who have no connection with any church.

IX. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, Aug. 11

X. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 with a send off prayer for Pastor Ruth.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara N. Blood