

**Congregation Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2009**

**Members Present:** Valerie Bettinson, Sandi Edgemon, Mot Hedges, Carl Imhoff, Lori Lieske, Mark Underwood, Bob Thompson, Dave Wunschel

**Ex-Officio Members:** Pastor Martens

**Guests:** Debbie Stankovich, Debbie Hardman

**Absent / Excused:**

Topic	Findings, Discussion, Conclusions, and Motions	Follow-up Actions
<b>Opening Prayer – Pastor Martens</b>		
<b>Approval of 3/10/09 Minutes</b>	MSP – Approve minutes.	
<b>Approve Funds for Parking Lot Improvements and Establish a Separate Account for Improving and Renting the H House</b>	MSP - Approved by email 4/6/09 - Approve moving \$3750 from the Long Range Plan \$7.5K budget to begin the parking lot improvements as advised by Adjacent Properties Committee. Establish a separate account for paying for H house improvements and repaying with H house rent.	Carl & Bob – Meet with Jeff Sperline to get legal guidance about forming an LLC vs. a 501C2 property management division meeting with Sandi – Send Debbie S. and Carl the motion the Council approved to set up a fund to pay for parking lot improvements.
<b>Ministry Teams Spring Training April 28, 2009</b>	Debbie Stankovich reported that the training will be April 28, 2009. The theme is baseball spring training. It will be a fun, educational time for the ministry team members. Debbie asked the Council members to serve dinner to the participants. Mark confirmed he can serve.	Valerie, Mot, Bob, Carl, Dave - Let Debbie S. know if you will serve dinner on 4/28.
<b>Treasurer’s Report</b>	Debbie Hardman reported that as of 4/13 RLC has a deficit of \$9K compared to a \$2K “profit” at this time in 2008. Giving is \$6K above last year, but expenses are \$18K greater compared to giving through April 2008 due primarily to salaries, benefits, and facility expenses. Using the 2008 trend line for giving, RLC will end the year at \$681K, which is \$200K under budget. Debbie S. and Debbie H. presented their recommendations for reducing expenditures and recommended the Council take action to reduce the 2009 budget and expenses now.	Carl, Bob, Lori, & Valerie – Work with Debbie S. and Debbie H. to understand the options to address the budget deficit.
<b>Synod Assembly Representatives</b>	<p>Pastor Martens reported that Erv and LaVonne Johnson will represent RLC instead of Matt and Kristen Kuempels because the Kuempels are clergy and are not eligible to represent RLC at the Synod Assembly.</p> <p>There are will be key motions at the Synod Assembly recognizing same sex marriage and clergy in committed same sex marriages. In addition, the ELCA will vote on a position on human sexuality at its meeting in Aug. These are potentially emotionally-charged events and will likely draw media attention to RLC and ELCA. Pastor recommended the Council prepare to answer questions from congregants and develop key messages to</p>	<p>Dave &amp; Pastor Martens – Develop key messages and talking points to communicate the Council position on the Synod and ELCA</p> <p>All – Read and familiarize yourselves with the Synod motions and ELCA paper on human sexuality.</p>

Topic	Findings, Discussion, Conclusions, and Motions	Follow-up Actions
	communicate the Council's position on these issues. The Council agreed that Pastor Martens should speak on behalf of RLC to any reporters contacting RLC for a statement or opinion.	
<b>Pastor's Report – Pastor Martens</b>	Pastor Martens presented his regular report.	
<b>West Richland Ministry Meeting on 4/19/09</b>	The Council discussed the agenda for the meeting. The objectives are to 1) Present the AMST study information and the Synod RFP funding opportunity to promote a ministry opportunity in the Tri-Cities. 2) Obtain the attendees' input about potential opportunities and ideas. Bob will facilitate the discussion. Carl and Bob will frame the message. Mark will attend and support the meeting. All other Council members are encouraged to attend.	
<b>Associate Pastor's Call Committee</b>	Tabled until the Council retreat on 4/25.	
<b>Council Retreat 4/25/09</b>	The Council will meet at RLC 4/25 8 am – 3 pm for a local Council retreat.	
<b>RLC Council Secretary</b>	Sandi will be stepping down from the Council and her position as Council Secretary effective 4/30/09.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	Next Congregation Council Meeting is May 12 in the Prince of Peace.	

### Action Items

Action	Responsible Individual	Due Date	Status
Restart the Membership Committee.	Pastor Martens	TBD	Remove
Conduct a portfolio review of RLC's stocks and present information on percentage of stock holdings from other churches of RLC's size.	Debbie H.	TBD	
Notify Carl Gustafson that the Council approved his board membership.	Sandi	3/18/09	Done
Identify the top 8 individuals for the Associate Pastor Call Committee.	All	4/14/09	Done
Tally Call Committee results and distribute to the group.	Sandi	4/14/09	Done
Send Debbie S. and Carl the motion the Council approved to set up a fund to pay for parking lot improvements.	Sandi	4/15/09	
Meet with Jeff Sperline to get legal guidance about forming an LLC vs. a 501C2 property management division meeting.	Carl & Bob	4/16/09	
Let Debbie S. know if you will serve dinner on 4/28.	Valerie, Mot, Bob, Carl, Dave	4/17/09	
Plan and facilitate the West Richland RLC member lunch meeting.	Carl & Bob	4/19/09	
Work with Debbie S. and Debbie H. understand the options to address the budget	Carl, Bob, Lori, & Valerie	5/12/09	

Action	Responsible Individual	Due Date	Status
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Develop key messages and talking points to communicate the Council position on the Synod and ELCA	Dave & Pastor Marten	5/12/09	

**Agenda Items for Future Council Meetings**

May - Identify potential call committee members to contact about their willingness to serve.

May – For the common consent agenda – Approve renaming the RLC ministry committees as ministry team.

TBD – Discuss ways to obtain feedback from the congregation.

TBD – Debbie H. to present a portfolio review of RLC’s stocks and information on percentage of stock holdings from other churches of RLC’s size.

TBD – Annual review of bylaws & continuing resolutions.

TBD - Provide recommendations on appointments to the Deaf Ministry and Preschool Task Forces.