

## **Vision Team Minutes** **June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Members Present:** Beth Pappenfus, Jill Stoeck, Fred Bursch, Pat Kalina, Pastors Greg & Sherry Billberg, Pastor John Peshek, Stacy Lamski, Brent Boraas.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Beth Pappenfus, Vision Team Chairperson.

**Treasurer Report:** Dan Loken, church treasurer presented to the Vision Team (VT) the financial statement as of end of May 2010. Total income was \$334,545 vs. \$387,672 budget or 86% of budget. Total expenses were \$358,540 vs. \$380,498 budget or 94% of budget. We are currently carrying approximately a \$24,000 negative balance. Four months of ELCA benevolence has been withheld to meet cash flow and not tap into the line of credit. The VT authorized Pat to draw on the line of credit and make FLC current with the ELCA commitments. M/S/P report as presented.

**Secretary Report:** M/S/P April 2010 minutes.

**Worshipful Work:** Is there joy in mudville? 2009 has been a difficult year for our leadership team with back in July, the kingdom kid's fee proposal controversy and the vote by the synod in August has brought challenges. The VT reflected on the joys that each of us have experienced volunteering. The majority of VT members felt dealing with people and the friendships that have been formed are the most rewarding experiences.

### **Pastor's Reports:**

- Pastor Greg
  - o Synod Assembly was an excellent experience.
  - o The summer church-wide picnic is scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> at City Park and is being organized by Adult Ministry.
  - o The combined ELCA service is scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> at City Park at 11am.
- Pastor Sherry
  - o The Mystery Bus Trip recently went to the Le Cordon Bleu School in Minneapolis and the MN History Museum.
  - o A bulletin board is being put together in the hallway with pictures and informational paragraphs on FLC shut-ins.
- Pastor John
  - o June 20<sup>th</sup> will be a mission focused Sunday with Christopher Hartwig being involved in services to promote missions.
  - o Pastor John will be preaching at Carlos State Park on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business**

#### **Strategic Planning**

- Staff has been assigned to each of the strategic plan goals to flesh out measurable and tactics for each. The plan is to present the Strategic Plan to the VT at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Following this, the plan (in an easily readable and understandable format) will be presented to the congregation.
- The group discussed the release process and invigoration of key stakeholders.

#### **Synod Assembly (Beth)**

- The synod assembly was a wonderful experience and included two excellent speakers focusing on stewardship and missions.

#### **Financial Planning (Fred)**

- Discussions continue on options of how to discuss increased giving with families starting this fall.

## **New Business**

### October Elections

- Jill, Mark, Joan, Brent, Steve, and Jodi will be reaching the end of their terms and should begin discussions with their boards on future VT representatives. October 10<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for elections between services.

### Facility Needs Taskforce

- Tabled a detailed discussion to the July meeting.

### Vision Team Social

- Beth will organize a gathering.

### Closing

- Lord's Prayer.

### Next Meeting

- July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

## **Vision Team Minutes July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Members Present:** Pastor Greg & Sherry Bilberg, Pastor John Peshek, Beth Pappenfus, Joan Thompson, Steve Haug, Mark Anderson, Fred Bursch, Stacy Lamski, Jill Stoeck, Brent Boraas.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Beth Pappenfus, Vision Team Chairperson.

**Treasurer Report:** Dan Loken, church treasurer was not present but provided the Vision Team (VT) an income statement effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. Total income was \$391,248 vs. \$461,116 budget or 85% of budget. Total expenses were \$432,268 vs. \$461,950 budget or 94% of budget. This represents an overall balance of \$41,000 in the red. Second quarter statements have been mailed to the congregation showing current yearly status of giving. Last month's VT meeting authorized Pat in the church office to use our bank line of credit in the amount of \$25,000 to come current on benevolence giving to our synod offices. The \$41,000 deficiency already includes the line of credit balance. Stewardship board and Pastor John meet recently to discuss a program of recruiting 12 families in the church to host 2 groups of 6 families on separate nights and discuss what FLC means to each of the family members and prayerfully consider increasing their giving by 1% and using the automatic bank draft program of "simply giving." M/S/P report as presented.

**Secretary Report:** No minutes provided so the June & July minutes will be reviewed at the next VT meeting.

**Worshipful Work:** Pastor John shared a story of first year as pastor performing a funeral for a pastor's son who drowned saving his younger brother and the mother expressed a question of why one son was spared? This leads FLC into a place that has been spared with much turmoil concerning the struggles of our budget, ELCA church body positions on controversial votes but has been spared by the Holy Spirit to get us through these difficult times. Please celebrate God's presence and trust he will lead us.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Greg shared comments about the upcoming Alexandria Lutheran churches joint service at city park this coming Sunday. Bethesda & Shalom churches are in discussion of merging churches possibly by first of the year. The living nativity has now been shifted to the VT as sole responsibility on whether to carry forward. Future discussions will ensue as to the viability of this ministry. Pastor Sherry is inspired by the talks with Bethesda &

Shalom merger. She posed the question...what would God want? This has caused dreams of future ministries for both congregations.

### **Old Business:**

Land: A \$66,000 semi-annual payments for the land purchase was made in June with December's payment in the bank already with an extra \$45,000 left over invested in another CD for June 2011 payment. We anticipate the land will be paid off with the June 2011 payment however, contributions will continue to be accumulated for the infrastructure costs of sewer and water piping along with road construction when the time comes to build.

Financial Planning: A discussion on financial planning for the church took place with Pastor John, Brent Boraas of the stewardship committee, and the rest of the VT. Plans are in the works for 12 families to host 2 gatherings of 6 families each with training offered in August on how to accomplish 3 things:

#1 share vision of what excites each family about FLC and what can happen.

#2 ask to consider a 1% increase in giving from existing tithing.

#3 ask to participate in the automatic bank draft planned giving program.

We hope this will develop a culture of stewardship within the church.

October Elections: October elections are set for October 10<sup>th</sup> and the VT needs replacement nominations for 2011-12 calendar years. The VTG needs 3 nominations by September 1<sup>st</sup> for each board along with one person willing to serve as a VT representative.

Strategic Planning: The strategic planning exercise has come to a phase of providing the VT a preliminary draft with a total of 15 goals on future leadership principles of FLC. VT was asked to review and provide corrections/changes if necessary by our next VT meeting.

### **New Business:**

Vision Team will provide names of people to serve on a current facilities usage task force. The purpose is to receive input on the various usages of our church and what can be enhanced and eliminated. This information will be collected and provided to an eventual building task force for a feasibility study of possibly building a new church on the land purchased a couple of years back.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next VT meeting will be August 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brent Boraas