

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2015
7 p.m., ILC Library**

John Urbanski called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Devotions – Donna Bregel

Refreshments – Christy Woll

Faith Story – Gay Ludvig

Motions:

Motion Made	Made By	Second	Outcome of Vote
Motion to approve the amended February minutes.	John		Motion carried
Motion to approve that the congregation adopt the proposed changes to the Constitution at the special meeting on April 26th at 10:15 a.m.	Bob	Christy	Motion carried

Action Items Assigned:

Action Items	Assigned	Target Date	Status

Council Reports:

Secretary’s Report – Gay Ludvig

Review and approve February minutes.

President’s Report- John Urbanski

- **Call Committee Update**

The Call Committee is comprised of Pastors Paul and Susan plus seven other members. Some members are recent and others have been at Immanuel a long time. The committee has not heard back from all of the members, but they plan to meet between mid-April and mid-June. The committee will give the Council a list of names right after Easter, and Pastor Paul will contact the Synod. The goal is to have another part-time pastor by August.

- **Constitution Review Sections 15-19**

- In Chapter 12.13 of the Constitution, the Council added an “s” to the statement:
- A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the pastor (s) or interim pastor...”

- In section 15 of the Constitution, if an Immanuel member needs to be disciplined, the Synod would be involved if the member wanted to stay. The process for discipline of a member of the congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions of the ELCA in America.
- In Section 16, the only section change was to include notifying members by electronic means such as email.
- In Section 17, the Synod needs to notify the congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove of any Constitutional changes before 120 days; if the congregation does not receive a message within 120 days, the changes in the Constitution will remain in effect. This is a variation from the ELCA model language.
- When amending the Constitution, the Council needs to file in 60 days. If the congregation adopts the model language, it may do that in one meeting. Immanuel has a meeting scheduled between the 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services at 10:15 a.m. on April 26th. Some of the changes include Section 5.05 which states that "The Congregation Council shall have the authority to establish an endowment fund for the purpose of mission work beyond the operational budget..." The second change involves Section 12.01. "The congregation selects at least one youth member and one young adult member to be members of the Congregational Council. No specific definition of the ages for these categories was provided."
- Bob made the motion to recommend that the congregation adopt the proposed changes to the Constitution at the special meeting of the congregation on April 26th at 10:15 a.m. Review sessions are planned for Sundays March 22nd and April 19th, and Tuesday, March 24th. Christy seconded the motion. The motion carried. There will be announcements in the bulletin and a special mailing to the congregation. John will talk to the staff about the mailing, and he will talk to Cindy Paulson about Sunday School changes.

Vice President's Report – Brenda Tonjes

- Personnel Committee Status
The Employee Guidebook is being updated and improved to formalize policy and procedures. Some of the members include Brenda Tonjes, Pastor Paul, Craig Holje, Bev Lohs, Jane Cinnamon and Jerry Figg.

Financial Secretary's Report – Scott Belseth

- February 2015 giving was more than February 2014 giving and more than the February 2015 budget. Attendance in February was 2,470 in 2015 and 2,069 in February 2014.

Treasurer's report- Brian Nichols

Highlights of the Financial Summary in 2015:

- February giving was 17% over budget and 18% over the prior year. YTD giving is consistent with budget but lower than prior year.
- Church expenses were 9% or \$6,600 over budget for February and are 6% or \$9,100 over budget YTD.
- Mileage (\$1,439), insurance (\$1,258), building repairs and maintenance (\$1,397) and office equipment (\$1,272) represent over 80% of our unfavorable Church Expenses variance to budget in February. These are one time items.
- Program expenses are as usual significantly below budget for February and February YTD.
- Five for Fifty contributions were almost \$20,000 short of our mortgage payment in February and almost \$9,400 short of minimum mortgage payment YTD.
- An additional mortgage principal payment of \$20,000 was made in February which reduced the number of months of mortgage coverage from 3.5 to 1.7 months.

Committee Reports (All)

Worship, Music and Arts – Bob Peterson

- On April 12th the Bell Choir will play at all three services to raise money for additional bells.
- We will be paying \$700.00 per year to get a license for streaming.
- On May 2nd there will be a Bach Concertino.

Properties – Brian Heinzen

- The committee will be meeting on April 1st at 7:00 p.m. Brian would like to have additional members.

Stewardship – Paul Stordahl

- This year there is \$35,000 more in pledges than this time last year.

Social Concerns – Sharon Peterson

- On March 21st members of Immanuel are encouraged to be at the Habitat Panel Plant working inside building panels/walls for a Habitat home. Volunteers are needed!
- Families Moving Forward will be here the week of March 15-22. Volunteers are needed.
- The Disciple's Garden is starting! The garden on the Immanuel property has 12 plots in it. Members are needed to tend to the needs of 4 plots this coming summer.
- There will be a pancake breakfast fundraiser at Redeemer Lutheran Church in North Minneapolis on Saturday, March 28th from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Children's Education Co-chair – Eldri Johnson

- She is really excited about the new Director of Children's Ministry, Cindy Paulson. The last rotation will be on March 22nd.
- There will be a new curriculum beginning on April 12th.
- Vacation Church School will be held the week of July 13-16. Sign up online.

Middle School Youth- Christy Woll and Donna Bregel

- Christy and a student went on a retreat, and it was the best one Christy has been on! There will be a retreat in South Dakota from June 13-19th.
- Nine students have signed up for the Middle School Mission Trip in August from the 2-7th. It is open to students in grades 7 & 8.
- After Lent, students will be invited to go to Caribou on Wed. nights to discuss their faith.

Senior High Youth- Scott Sabin

- It was difficult to get volunteers for the Youth Rejoice event on Feb. 15th as it was President's Weekend, and many students were out of town. The speakers were great, however.
- On Easter Sunday, April 5th, members are encouraged to come for breakfast between 7:30-10:45 a.m. Proceeds benefit the youth of Immanuel.
- There will be a garage sale at the church on May 2nd. Everyone is encouraged to bring items for the youth to sell.

Evangelism- Julie Tufford-Olig Nothing new.

Staff Reports:

Bill Hawkins

- Darrell has been coming in on Sundays to do the custodian's work, and he wants to be relieved. March 15th is his last day.
- Bill contacted Martinalan Janitorial Services who provide custodian services for different churches. The company charges \$18.00 an hour, and their people are well trained. Grace

and St. Andrews churches use their services, and they are very happy with them. Bill is going to contact the Martinalan Services and have someone come out to Immanuel.

Pastor Susan

- An informational meeting on the trip that Pastor Susan and her husband are planning for next November to Israel/Palestine will be open to people on Sunday, April 12th at noon. Specifics of the trip will be addressed, and questions will be answered. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center.
- The Prayer Vigil begins after Maundy Thursday worship and ends before Good Friday Worship. One can sign up for half an hour or an hour. Sign up at the Welcome Center or online.
- The Grief Coalition will be hosted this April by Pastor Susan and other volunteers since the church responsible for next month cancelled. They meet for 7 Thursdays. Speakers are scheduled and a simple supper is served for the 20-25 members that are grieving. Pastor Paul will do the last session, and Pastor Susan will take the first session.

Pastor Paul

- He talked about the next capital appeal in 2016. Members of Immanuel are being asked to take the CAT assessment either online or receive a paper copy in the office. The CAT assessment is available from March 15-April 15. If 450 assessments are returned, that will give a good snapshot of Immanuel verses 500 other congregations.
- Council members from the last 5 years will be asked for their feedback on Immanuel's vision, and there will be 30-50 interviews as well. Community members will also be asked about the future of the Eden Prairie Community's vision.
- There are three copies of Pastor Paul's dissertation. He will defend his dissertation in front of his classmates and three professors on April 9th. Anyone from Immanuel is welcome to attend. Paul graduates on May 17th.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

Council	April 14, 2015	7:00 p.m.
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Prayerfully submitted,

**Gay Ludvig,
Council Secretary**

Attendance

P- Present, NP Not Present

Name	P/NP	Name	P/NP
Scott Belseth	P	Brian Nichols	P
John Bleifuss	NP	Bob Peterson	P
Donna Bregel	P	Sharon Peterson	P
Paul & Melanie Carroll	NP	Martin Rathjen	NP
Bill Hawkins	P	Scott Sabin	P
Brian Heinzen	P	Paul Stordahl	P
Jolene Held	P	Katie Thormodsgard	NP
Lou & Alecia Hernandez	NP	Brenda Tonjes	P
Eldri Johnson	P	Julie Tufford-Olig	P
Jennifer Johnson	NP	John Urbanski	P
Gay Ludvig	P	Pastor Susan Weaver	P
Pastor Paul Nelson	P	Christy Woll	P