

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Dan T, President
Brendan R, Vice President
John D, Secretary
Chuck P, Finance
Laurie S, Youth
Gary S, Property
Bridget S, Christian Education
Jamie P, Worship and Music
Jeff D, Evangelism
Mary C, Social Concerns
Leslie B, Stewardship

Lynn T, Congregational Life
Lindsay A, Ex Officio
Pastor Deanna Wildermuth, Sr. Pastor
Pastor Sue Wanwig, Visitation Pastor

Staff Present:

Kathy Fisher, Youth & Family Ministry

Members Absent: Tom E, Management

The meeting was called to order by president Dan Thieme at 7:07 PM.

Devotions: Brendan R, by way of “making baby Jesus real”, introduced the council to the Christmas song “This Baby”, the lyrics of which are attached to the office copy of this report.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November council meeting were approved with two improvements.

Pastors’ Reports

Pastor Wanwig updated the council on the planning activities of the Mercer Island Clergy Association regarding the City’s tent city ordinances. The intent of the ordinances is to limit the “burden” on individual neighborhoods by refusing proposed locations within one mile of previous locations, and requiring one year or more between tent cities at a given location. MICA feels that the proposed restrictions are too limiting of churches’ rights.

Sue also noted that ushering and logistical help was needed for church services which draw many non-members, such as funerals.

Pastor Wildermuth reported on our new “text talk” opportunity on Wed. mornings at 10:00 AM and Wed. evenings at 6:00 PM. She commented on the MICA Thanksgiving Eve service and the HTLC attendance (3). Pastor Deanna will assist in taped KONG TV Sunday services (Dec. 13th, KONG TV). Christmas service details were presented.

BUSINESS

Completing 2009 Agros / El Milagro Commitment

a) Mary C proposed that we include a “mini-auction” during our Christmas dinner to raise funds toward our El Milagro pledge. Items auctioned would include excellent seats to opening night performances at the Fifth Avenue Theater. The offer was wholeheartedly accepted by the council.

b) Mary also proposed that past contributors to El Milagro could be contacted regarding support for this year. Again, it was the sense of the council that this was an acceptable approach. A letter to past El Milagro supporters will be sent.

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Agros / El Milagro 2010/11 – Potential Funding Partner

The \$15,000 per year that HTLC has committed to Agros for the support of El Milagro for the next two years is short of the \$50,000 per year need as stated by Agros. Kay S has proposed, separate from HTLC, to create a group of mothers and daughters to raise additional funds for El Milagro. The question was presented whether HTLC would prefer to raise additional funds itself, instead of an additional funding source becoming involved. The council was not in favor of expanding HTLC's commitment to AGROS.

Preparation for January 31, 2010 Annual Meeting

Dan outlined the documents and activities required for the annual meeting, which is to be held on January 31st at 9:00 AM. (For details, see meeting agenda appended to office copy of this report.) He asked, furthermore, that all required inputs for the annual reports be e-mailed to Kirsten by January 13th. Anyone having further inputs to "Special Issues" to consider at the annual meeting are asked to present them at the next council meeting.

Committee Updates

Stewardship

Leslie provided a thorough synopsis of the most recent Stewardship Committee meeting, the details of which are attached to the office copy of this report. She noted encouraging increases in the number of households pledging and in the amount pledged for next year.

Congregational Life

Lynn went over the Christmas dinner plans, all is in order. She still needed two of our youth to come forward (for \$25) to be "waiters." David Locke will provide music, as will our choir leads.

Worship and Music

Jamie plans to start our campaign to obtain the new "Cranberry" hymnals with pledge cards in February and orders in March.

Christian Education

Bridget mentioned that we might consider the possibility of requiring a formal parental release of HTLC activity photos which include HTLC children prior to using such photos in church bulletins, website etc. A sample form was provided for discussion (attached to office copy). It was suggested that HTLC should have a formal "parental / child safety policy." Pastor Deanna suggested that we consider a task force separate from the Christian Ed Committee to perform that task. Continuing the previous discussion regarding the perceived need for a parental release form, it was felt that we should adopt something similar to the one provided (see office copy). It was the sense of the council that we should do so, but that no council action was required. Pastor Deanna suggested that we simply make it part of Sunday School registration. Dan further suggested that no form would be necessary if we adopted the practice of not publishing names with photos of church activities except for those for exclusively internal use. Dan asked the Christian Ed Committee to pick up on the issue. They agreed.

Bridget is pleased to report that our nursery attendant, Julie N, is "really good" in the nursery.

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Youth

The Youth committee is pleased to announce that all expenses for the New Orleans youth project had been paid in full and that funds were already coming in for next year's one week long "mystery" mission trip.

The youth-sponsored collection of loose change for the Hamomi school in Africa brought in \$425.

Property

Gary has been busy making many improvements to church property, i.e. re-organizing all closets, painting the kitchen, repairing outside lights repairing (most of) the landscape lights. Completion of work in the ladies' room awaits parts. As to replacing the church doors, it appears to be much too expensive at this time. Our energy audit continues.

Evangelism

Jeff D reports that his updating of the church membership roll continues. The new church directory is being assembled.

Social Concerns

Several HTLC members visited First Place School and were impressed with their staff and mission. They will ask for HTLC support for the school after the first of the year.

Finance Report

Chuck presented the current financial status. We are doing well but are a bit short of our budget for 2009. He also presented a preliminary budget for 2010 (Details are available in the financial report attached to the office copy of these notes). Chuck requested that all committee leads examine their respective budget estimates and provide feedback by December 31st.

Pastor Deanna requested a single page "benevolence/outreach" summary.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,
John D, secretary