

Minutes of St. Matthew's Congregation Meeting
Sunday, January 28, 2007

1. The congregation used ELW hymnals for the first time by singing 574 (Here I Am, Lord), 855 (Crown Him with Many Crowns), 677 (This Little Light of Mine), 812 (Faith of our Fathers/Mothers).
2. The meeting was opening with prayer led by Pr. Moore and a slideshow of St. Matthew's images, then called to order at 12:45 by Vice President Lisa Bishop. With 27 members signed-in at this point, Ms. Bishop declared the presence of a quorum.
3. Moved: to approve the minutes of the Congregation's 2006 Annual Meeting (Jensen, Whyte second). Passed.
4. Pr. Moore delivered the Pastor's Report by lifting up many aspects of ministry during her service here. "And for this we say, thanks be to God!"
5. Moved: to accept the ministry reports distributed last week (H. Andersen, McWilliams second). Passed.
6. Financial Secretary Lydia Brown and former Treasurer Jon Veen presented the Financial Report. Moved: to accept the 2006 financial report (Whyte, McWilliams second). Passed.
7. Moved to put the 2006 financial report on the website (McWilliam, Whyte second). Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Moved: to direct the Council to secure the services of an engineer to make proposals regarding the back wall (Jensen, Lohr second). Passed.

NEW BUSINESS

9. The Nominating Committee place Barbara Ervin, Gerry Bakertjy, and Stephanie Sheppard, and Peter Jensen, Carol Andersen for one year terms. It was observed that this would result in a 10-person Council (The constitution allows a minimum of six and a maximum of twelve). No further nominations were forthcoming from the floor. Moved: to close nominations (Moore, Aycox second). Passed. Moved: to direct the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate (Brown, Aycox second). Passed. The Secretary, Mr. Veen, cast one vote for the nominated candidates, who were declared elected, installation to take place next Sunday.
10. Financial Secretary Lydia Brown and former Treasurer Jon Veen presented the proposed 2007 budget. In discussion from the floor, a correction was adopted...

11. Ms. Lohr asked about the wisdom of adopting a deficit budget. It was noted that the congregation had a history of adopting deficit budgets without truly recognizing the fact (a line item called "challenge factor"). The Council has already gone through a process to reduce expenses. The annual deficit could be cured by increasing individual giving by approximately 10% or by a fundraising event equivalent to the rummage sales. Moved: to accept the budget as proposed and corrected (H. Andersen, R. Aycox second). Passed, with one no, one abstention.
12. Moved: that we have a stewardship campaign for 2007-08 (Jensen, L. Brown second). Passed.
13. Evaluation: what was good: clarity, shared feeling of ownership, participation, opening with hymns, reflecting on joys, contrary viewpoints, annual report emailed, available ahead of time, not on football Sunday, humor, interest and intelligence throughout the congregation, clarity in financial information. What could we do better? overall turnout, footnotes on the financials,
14. Moved: to adjourn (Veen, McWilliams). Adjourned at 2:00pm.

Submitted by Paul Bellan-Boyer

The members of the Congregation Council during 2007 where:

Kim Aycox
Gerry Bakirtjy
Lydia Brown
Leroy Clouden
Barbara Ervin
Peter Jensen
Carole McLeod
Stephanie Sheppard
Carol Andersen (resigned)
Jon Veen (resigned)

There are currently 8 members and 4 unfilled positions. The minimum number of members is 6 and the maximum is 12. The pastor is an ex officio member.

Pastor's Report Part B: New Members and Pastoral Acts 2007 (revised)

Adult Members Received by Affirmation of Baptism:

Sondra Howard-Festa

Rev. Selena L. Blackwell

Child Members Received (Baptisms):

None

Funerals:

Elizabeth Henne: [b. Nov. 19, 1903; d. March 10, 2007], March 16, 2007; Martin Funeral Home; Clinton, NJ; [Vicar Marsha Anderson, officiant]

Henry Lentz: 01/17/07; Bromirski Funeral Home, JC; [Vicar Marsha Anderson, officiant]

Weddings:

Tonya Howard and Sondra Festa: 11/10/07; St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, JC

Jeffrey Thomas and Richard Ledesma: 11/17/07, Gaetana's Restaurant, NY, NY

Pastor's Report Part C: Parochial Statistics 2007 (revised)

Members Received: 2

Affirmations of Baptism: 2

Membership Statistics

Baptized: 104

Confirmed/Communing/Contributing: 84

Unconfirmed Communing: 12

Average Worship Attendance 2001-2007

Year	Attendance	Baptized Members
2001	32	86
2002	42 (+30%)	76
2003	53 (+25%)	105
2004	52 (-2%)	104
2005	55 (+5.8%)	117
2006	51 (-7.8%)	104
2007	42 (-17%)	105

Congregational Giving to Current and Mission Support

Year	Current	Mission Support and World Hunger
2002	\$56,376	\$7,600
2003	\$68,282 (+21%)	\$10,853 (+42.80%)
2004	\$63,811 (-7%)	\$13,448 (+24%)
2005	\$72,917 (+14.2%)	\$17,742 (+32%)
2006	\$80,038 (+9.77%)	\$17,513
2007	\$82,173	14,064

The congregation will be asked to consider applying for compensation aid for the year 2008. If the congregation decides to do so the following survey must be completed.

This is an anonymous survey that will be used by the NJ Synod to calculate the amount of compensation aid that we qualify for. Compensation aid augments the salary that the congregation provides to the pastor. Please fill out one survey per household. Select only one option.

Description	Income
1 Single communing member with full time employment	_____
2 A couple who are both communing members and one or both have full time employment	_____
3 A married / partnered individual who is a communing member but whose spouse / partner is inactive in any church and where there is at least one full income in the household	_____
4 A married / partnered individual who is a communing member but whose spouse / partner is active in another church and where there is at least one full income in the household.	_____
5 An individual or household with limited income: unemployed; retired; divorced; prolonged illness; & etc. Full time students and military personnel outside of the immediate community are excluded from this category.	_____