

Mount Olive Lutheran Church
Mission and Ministry Council Meeting
March 18, 2014

Approved as amended
May 20, 2014

Attendees: Duane Topp, Scott Colestock, Justen Rucks, Jerusha Davis, Dave Berndt, Scott Passe, Jeff Schultz, Karen Albu, Pastor Haakana

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Duane Topp.

The agenda was approved as written.

Dave Berndt made a motion to approve the January 21, 2014 minutes. Justen Rucks seconded. Minutes were approved as written.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- 1) Trustees: The building had to be evacuated on Sunday of the Couple's Retreat. Snow had gotten into one of the heating units. There was residual gas in the building. The 10:30 service was held.
- 2) Endowment Fund: Scott Schwarz is a new committee member. The Gift Planning Services program will be revisited in Spring.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- 1) We will be formulating the Work Program for the new fiscal year. There was discussion for a future Stewardship Program. Year-to-date offerings for General Expenses are currently below what is needed to perform the current Work Program.

Discussion: One possibility for lower contributions may be the very cold / snowy winter we have had. Also, when we had to evacuate the church, there were no services; therefore, no collections were taken. We have not had a pledge drive for many years, only the Capital Appeal. We need to focus one Sunday on Stewardship (or maybe do it over several Sundays) in order to fulfill our Mission and Vision. We may need to explain more thoroughly the difference between our general giving dollars and the Capital Appeal Campaign. Capital Appeal goes toward the church's mortgage, the General Fund goes toward every day expenses of the church. Suggestions: use a visual pie chart to show where money is spent, explain that we need "this much" each week in order to pay our bills. Should we do quarterly statements?

- 2) The money borrowed from the Revolving Reserve has been paid back. We still owe the Dedicated Fund \$81,643.90. \$20,000 was just paid on it.
- 3) We have been reducing the Work Program dollars; i.e., salaries, hours.
- 4) Pastor Jon asked if we could provide more information to him regarding the church's commitment and schooling with Mach Kuel.

Discussion: Was Mt Olive to pay 1/3 of his schooling, the district 1/3 and Mach 1/3? Was Mt Olive to extend a call to Mach after his schooling? Was Mt Olive to give him a stipend after his schooling? After his schooling, he would be considered a licensed deacon (vicar) through the Minnesota South District. Karen will go through past MMC minutes to see what can be found regarding the above questions.

- 5) Pastor Jon presented a "Vision Moving Forward." Pastor feels we are tending toward the negative. Not feeling good about where things are going. Finances continue to be a problem. Sometimes feels like we are just spinning our wheels.

- A. Repurposing church areas; i.e., bookstore, family center. Are there other things we could be using these areas for.
 - B. Add a new ministry on-campus...The Seed.
 - C. Give more thought to off-campus ministry; i.e., mission/fitness center.
 - D. Introduction of program "TEN." Ten = tithing. 10 reasons to tithe, 10 reasons to give thanks, 10 ministries that benefit from our offerings, 10 Bible verse that talk about giving, etc.
- 6) A resume has been received for the position of DCA.

Positive happenings around MOLC:

- >The number of adult Bible studies and number attending has increased since starting The STORY
- >Two weeks ago – Adult Bible Study Foodshelf project: Received three tables full of filled grocery bags, and \$400 in cash.
- >44 women attended a retreat at Mt Olive. Planning to do something quarterly.
- >42 people at couple's retreat at Mt. Carmel – start of a couple's ministry.
- >21 students will be confirmed in early May.
- >30 different people will be involved in Lent skits, including youth and new members.
- >35 return visitors avg. each weekend; March 5/9, we had 23 first-time visitors.
- >New members – we are having smaller groups but more often.
- > We have had two adult baptisms this year; one family will be baptized on Easter.
- >We have had three families return in the past year.
- >We are making 15 weekend food backpacks for Anoka Middle School.
- >As a result of sending two teams to Odzi, Zimbabwe, partnering with Global Health Ministries, receiving offerings from our pre-school & Sunday School, and donations of \$\$ and furniture from members, we shipped over a container packed by our youth and 15 adult volunteers.
- >Mount Olive Mission Hospital will open in November 2014 in Odzi.
- >Pastor Togara & Shupie Mapingure will be visiting here for a month.
- >A month ago today (Feb 19) a new missions assistant for the Minnesota South District met with a few of the few movers and shakers in our District – MOLC was among those churches.

Scott Passe made a motion to adjourn. Scott Colestock seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting dismissed at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Albu
Interim Secretary