

SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 8, 2009

Members present: Diane Ziehl, Shirley Kirchner, Melba Bangert, Don Peterson, Kathy Spaulding, Ken Gerardy, Chuck Wanamaker, Jennifer Bolton, Virgil Norris, Jim Kennedy, Bob Harger and Pastor Dave.

President, Jennifer Bolton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave a devotion based on 1st Corinthians 4-16 pertaining to Healthy Models. It was taken from the Sports Spectrum magazine.

Jennifer then read several letters from Kent members pertaining to the Human Sexuality policy that was passed at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August. She stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss what action, if any, to be taken. Has there been any positive feedback? Jennifer mailed the notes of the congregational informational meeting held on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> to the council along with a letter stating her opinions on the subject. The general consensus of the council was that we should take a vote just to see how the congregation feels at this point in time.

Different comments made around the council were:

- Several articles in *The Lutheran* on this subject were very worthwhile.
- Our constitution dictates we (as a church) give money to the ELCA. Our mission statement needs to be honored. We can and should do nothing because we can not judge people. Two agreed and one stated that the councils job is to create a peaceful and prayerful area to worship, and do not have the authority to ask for a vote.
- The turmoil needs to be satisfied.
- A vote would simply put fuel on the fire.
- One responded that the chemistry of the church is being challenged and another responded that the church wide body is struggling everywhere.
- We need a vote to see if Kent accepts this policy or not.
- One said that he very opposed to NOT letting the congregation vote, and that we should examine the possibility of leaving the ELCA in favor of the LCMC, He has spoken to another church in that process, and said that it does not affect the pastors retirement benefit at all.
- The Lutheran church in Stover has formed and Options Committee to see what options are available to them to take a stand against this policy.
- Pastor Dave would like this to be a teaching moment for the church - struggling is important. We should never feel comfortable in our faith. Struggling helps us to grow. He was disappointed that there wasn't this kind of excitement at our PMC Sharing Meeting of the congregation the Sunday before where we wanted people's opinions about reaching out into our community with the good news of Jesus. He said our impact is local, not national. For one year we should study "What is the Church?". The ELCA was formed by a group of Lutherans to unite for greater impact on the world.
- It was suggested that we just let people know that council is discussing this issue.
- Kent should take a vote, and then have group discussions.
- It was asked if council wanted to present a vote to the congregation, and if so, how would it be worded? It must be done very carefully. After much discussion, it was decided to have the vote presented as follows:

This is a survey of the congregation.

Do you agree with the Policy number CA09.05.26 pertaining to rostered clergy who are in a committed, monogamous, same gender long term relationships? Yes or No

Can you live with this policy knowing it will not affect you here at Kent? Yes or No

I do not wish to vote on this issue. Yes or No

The motion was made and carried with 2 opposed.

It was moved and seconded that we mail survey to all voting members. Motion carried. Jennifer suggested we stamp each ballot so that they may not be duplicated.

The letter will go out on Tuesday, October 13, and must be back by October 31. It was moved and seconded that this was an acceptable timetable. Motion carried with one vote against.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m., followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Beese, substitute secretary