Monday, May 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

**Attending:**

Luanne Riedel Pastor Barsch Jan Tresch

Paul Rossmann Janice Navarro Christy Zygowski

Diane Borgardt Randy Laehr

Dawn Jacobson Mary Ann Mantey

**Absent:** John Kirt and Kari Weber

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Barsch

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** The April Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**Special Considerations:** None

**Reports:**

***Pastor’s Report:*** Communication was an important topic at the last large congregation seminar. Pastor is proposing the hiring of a staff person that will focus on communication. This new positions could be part-time or full-time depending on the identified responsibilities. We do not have the funds at this point but this should be a long range goal for our church. We can do some things right now to improve the communication in our church. One example is to increase our database of emails for the congregation members. In addition, announcements should be handed out at the end of the service not at the beginning of the service. Members should be encouraged to bring the announcements home and keep them readily available as a reference for the events of the church. Pastor will talk to the ushers and Mary Ann will take this to the next deacons meeting.

***AIM Report:*** Confirmation classes ended last Wednesday. Two of the small leaders will be coming back for next year. A VERY BIG THANK YOU to Diane Colletta who has done a fabulous job on the Confirmation classes for the past several years!!! Kim Andersen will be taking over this role starting next year.

***Vic-President Report:*** None at this time.

***Treasurer’s Report:*** Sunday school is way down and Bible school is up. This is simply timing. We are overall about the same as last month.

**Committee Reports:**

***Finance (Dawn Jacobson):*** Received good feedback regarding the first quarterly financial update with the congregation. The Finance Committee did not meet last month and is setting plans for their next meeting.

***Trustees (John Kirt):*** No report. Pastor mentioned the nature preserve committee (Green Team) plan was to let the grass grow naturally. Two neighbors complained that the grass needed to be cut. The Green Team discussed the complaints but felt cutting the grass took away from their plans for preserving a natural environment. We had additional neighbor complaints, including that they would contact the city of Racine. The city could then mow the area as they saw fit and send the church a bill. To avoid this and the issues with the neighbors, the grass was cut (leaving it at highest level possible to stay at 9 inches stated in the city ordinance). Responsibility is with the Green Team to get the nature preserve area designated as a nature preserve which then has exception to the city ordinance 9 inch grass height rule. Christy will follow up with the Green Team.

***Deacons (Mary Ann Mantey):*** Deacons are asking when the Handbook review when should it be completed. Luanne is looking for a point person to coordinate the Handbook changes and process (approval of changed, etc.). Luanne has asked that all committees aim for completing the review by September. Deacons agree that the 6:30 a.m. Easter service should be eliminated due to low attendance. Deacons raised the concern about faithful members who had stop coming to our church and who followed up to understand why they had stopped attending, etc. This is in the handbook for membership committee.

***Parish Ed (Kari Weber):*** No report.

***Membership (Paul Rossmann):*** Membership committee is very excited about the upcoming annual picnic. Currently they have 35 people signed up with a goal of 100. Beginning in June they will begin working on long range planning.

***Stewardship (Randy Laehr):*** Stewardship has drafted a letter with the theme of “Spring Greetings”. It is not asking for money but it’s focus is on letting everyone know they are thought of and encouraged to contact those on the Stewardship committee with suggestions and questions. They have also set a goal of being ready to present the Stewardship campaign to Council by July. Stewardship has also requested that the new information packets be in folders. Pastor offered to provide the folders. Time and Talent is being worked on with a sub-committee.

***Church in Society (Christy Zygowski):*** The Green team is thankful for those who purchased the sign for the Nature Preserve. The movie/theatre room at Halo is well underway with a goal for completion by mid-July. They are receiving lots of donations and help on this project. Church in Society has asked for the procedure for email blasts. The procedure is to either email Vanessa with your request or talk with directly.

***Youth (Diane Borgardt):*** Summer activities are in full swing with six car washes scheduled. The first was this past Sunday and they had the best success in raising money from all past car washes!! Thank you to everyone who participated!!! They have decided to take two vans for the New Orleans trip.

**Old Business:**

* Congregation Council Meeting is Aug 20th at 6:00 at Pastor’s home and a meal will be served. Anyone wishing to bring something can bring dog treats, if they wish, as all the “people” food has already taken care of.

**New Business:**

* Parking for Summer Services: Most feel that this will not be a huge issue. We should start announcing the parking options that will be available for the summer months. Janice will take care of getting this into the announcements.
* Security Concern: A concern was raised that those by themselves in the office could be at risk as they cannot see those at the door until they have entered. One suggestion was to have the office person walk over to the door and explain that they cannot let anyone in without a second person there. Concern with the more direct contact at the door as well as the distribution from work was mentioned. Also our security system is obsolete so repairs will be difficult when a fix is required. A speaker system will be priced. Given all of the important projects that the Trustees have on their list and the financial situation of the church, this proposal will need to be prioritized with everything else on the Trustee’s plans. It is likely that we will need to consider a Capital Campaign in the near future.
* Long Range Planning: Luanne has requested that everyone start talking with your committees about the long term health of our church. We need so start thinking long term.
  + What can we do to increase our congregation membership?
  + What can we do to strengthen our church?
  + How do we sustain our church for the future?
  + What can each committee do to help?
  + What ideas does each of the committees have for the long range health of our church?
  + What does each person on the council have for ideas?

We need a starter set of ideas for the Planning Meeting. There was discussion that attendance at the Annual Planning meeting was not adequate. Given the purpose of the annual planning meeting is to drive the long term, sustainable future of our church, more members should be attending. It was suggestion that at least two members from each committee be in attendance at the next Planning Meeting. How can we get others to attend? Viable ideas generated at the Planning meeting need to be assigned to appropriate committees or taskforces formed to address the plans. We need to monitor to ensure that the plans are followed through and they are successful.

* It was mentioned that several times on Sunday someone has come to the church asking for help. If Pastor or Janice is not available, how should this situation be addressed? There is nothing that can be done and they must wait until Monday to speak with Pastor or Janice.

**Closing Prayer:**  Mary Ann Mantey

**Respectively submitted,**

***Dawn Jacobson***

Congregation Council Secretary 

**Next Meeting: Monday, June 25, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Closing Prayer: Paul Rossmann**