

MLLC  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
October 26, 2008

The meeting was called to order 11:00 am. Bob Crance began the meeting discussing the sermon and its importance. He does not believe the current situation is an end but a chance at a new beginning. He asked Pastor Merle Brockhoff to lead the congregation in prayer.

Outgoing council members & Election of new Council – Bob began by recognizing the Council members ending their term; Melissa LaGue, Ralph Dawley, Jane Henderson and Peter Soukup. He thanked them for their efforts on the churches behalf. Bob then presented the members interested in becoming part of the church council; George Bright, Nancy Demorest, Cathy Fuhrman and Ron Henke. He then asked the congregation if there were anymore nominees. There where none. As there are four (4) open seats and four nominees, it was propose to pass the ballot as is. This was seconded and passed. We then discussed the seat vacated by Craig Bonne. The Council has asked Deb Stone to fill that seat. She accepted.

2009 Budget (Attachment 1) – Bob started the budget discussion by asking Peter to present the budget. Peter stated he was presenting basically the same budget as last year. There where a few place were the budget was cut but not much. He also pointed out that each family would have to give \$62 per week for this budget to work. It was proposed to Approve the budget. Bob then open the floor to discussion. Concern was expressed regarding the budget. It looks as though we will not meet our budget for this year. Why should we approve the same budget for next year? There was some discussion regarding that. It was suggested the we table the budget for further discussion at a later time. Bob then asked Pastor Merle to present his Excellent Choices for Conversation (Attachment 2). There was some discussion regarding the option presented therein. There was question regarding a grow plan for the church and the need for the members to engage in the running of the church. Melissa LaGue stated that she feels that aggressive moves are needed to kick start growth. It was proposed that we look into more advertising options. It was also stated the Living Lutheran class is really a must take class for understanding how the all works. It was decided that MLLC really needs to find a focus. What is our purpose here? We then went back to the motion to approve the budget. The motion passed 23 to 17. The budget was passed.

Report on Interim Process – Pastor Merle gave a short report regarding what MLLC can expect during the coming months. We will be working on information required for the call process.

The annual meeting was adjourn at 12:10.

## Attachment 1

## MLLC 2009 BUDGET INFO

	Budget '08	Actual - Sept	Proposed '09
GENERAL GIFTS / DONATIONS	\$200,959	\$ 112,490	\$ 200,680
NON MONEY \ IN-KIND GIFTS		\$ 7,000	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$200,959</b>	<b>\$ 119,490</b>	<b>\$ 220,748</b>
BENEVOLENCE (10%)	\$20,096	\$ -	\$ 20,068
<b>BUILDING</b>	<b>\$46,335</b>	<b>\$ 34,505</b>	<b>\$ 46,080</b>
Building Insurance	\$5,405	\$ 3,810	\$ 5,150
Mortgage Loan	\$40,930	\$ 30,695	\$ 40,930
Building - Other			
<b>UTILITIES</b>	<b>\$13,373</b>	<b>\$ 13,248</b>	<b>\$ 19,620</b>
Electricity	\$6,400	\$ 5,770	\$ 9,500
Gas	\$3,750	\$ 5,014	\$ 6,900
Telephone	\$1,900	\$ 1,370	\$ 1,800
Trash Disposal	\$603	\$ 554	\$ 700
Water & Sewage	\$720	\$ 540	\$ 720
Utilities - Other			
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>	<b>\$ 3,051</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>
Cleaning Supplies & Paper Products	\$2,000	\$ 50	\$ 300
Kitchen Supplies		\$ 203	\$ 250
Property Maintenance	\$5,500	\$ 2,798	\$ 6,950
Lawn Equipment		\$ 32	\$ 250
Organ & Piano Maintenance/Repair		\$ 65	\$ 75
Plumbing Repairs/Replacement		\$ 106	\$ 275
Routine Maintenance/Repair	\$5,500	\$ 2,270	\$ 6,000
Yearly Maintenance (Fire Ext & Back Flow)		\$ 325	\$ 350
Maintenance - Other			
<b>BUILDING &amp; MAINTENANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$67,208</b>	<b>\$ 50,804</b>	<b>\$ 73,200</b>
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$109,949</b>	<b>\$ 57,920</b>	<b>\$ 118,330</b>
Administrative Assistant	\$13,995	\$ 9,101	\$ 13,995
Wages	\$13,000	\$ 8,454	\$ 13,000
FICA taxes	\$995	\$ 647	\$ 995
Administrative Assistant - Other	\$0		
Contracted Positions	\$22,500	\$ 14,542	\$ 21,300
Accompanist	\$1,700	\$ 900	\$ 1,800
Band	\$8,800	\$ 9,056	\$ 12,500
Childcare Provider	\$0	\$ -	\$ -
Choir Director	\$7,000	\$ 1,800	\$ 5,500
Organist	\$4,000	\$ -	\$ 500
Supply Pastor	\$1,000	\$ 2,786	\$ 1,000
Contracted Positions - Other	\$0		
Pastor	\$70,379	\$ 33,240	\$ 69,860
Base Salary	\$42,500	\$ 18,382	\$ 40,000
Disability Insurance	\$1,965	\$ 489	\$ 900
FICA	\$0	\$ 438	\$ 3,060
Health Insurance	\$6,500	\$ 5,893	\$ 9,000
Housing Allowance	\$12,155	\$ 4,928	\$ 11,000
Pension	\$6,559	\$ 2,939	\$ 4,800
Retiree Support		\$ 171	\$ 400
Continuing Education	\$700	\$ -	\$ 700
Pastor Reimbursement	\$2,400	\$ 700	\$ 2,500
Workman's Comp	\$675	\$ 338	\$ 675
Pastor Call	\$0	\$ -	\$ 10,000
<b>OFFICE MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>\$2,900</b>	<b>\$ 1,891</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>
Bank fees	\$25	\$ 25	\$ 30

Equipment				
Copier	\$600	\$	705	\$ 1,150
RISO	\$350			
Equipment - Other		\$	195	\$ 270
Petty Cash	\$600	\$	75	\$ 200
Postage	\$125	\$	-	\$ 100
Supplies	\$1,200	\$	891	\$ 1,250
Office Management - Other	\$0			
<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$2,225</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>\$ 4,500</b>
Bible Study	\$750			
Resources	\$400	\$	1,165	\$ 1,250
Sunday School	\$600	\$	642	\$ 2,500
VBS	\$400	\$	175	\$ 500
Christian Education - Other	\$75			\$ 250
<b>COMMITTEES</b>	<b>\$4,298</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,923</b>	<b>\$ 5,300</b>
Flower Fund		\$	86	\$ 400
Memorial Fund	\$0	\$	500	
Music and Worship	\$1,548	\$	1,117	\$ 2,100
Music	\$0	\$	342	\$ 350
Choir Supplies	\$0			
Music Supplies	\$0			
Music - Other	\$0	\$	342	\$ 350
Worship	\$1,548	\$	775	\$ 1,750
Initial Offering Envelopes	\$0			
Worship Supplies	\$548	\$	528	\$ 750
Worship - Other	\$1,000	\$	247	\$ 1,000
Music & Worship - Other	\$0	\$	-	\$ -
Stephens Ministry		\$	-	\$ 250
Stewardship	\$0	\$	-	\$ 250
Way-of-Life	\$750	\$	220	\$ 300
Alpha	\$750	\$	220	\$ 200
Way-of-Life - Other				\$ 100
Youth Programs	\$2,000	\$	-	\$ 2,000
<b>FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH</b>	<b>\$7,550</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,630</b>	<b>\$ 5,050</b>
Advertising	\$6,500	\$	2,130	\$ 3,250
Direct Mail	\$2,000			
On-line Advertising				
Outdoor Signage	\$1,500			\$ 750
Print Advertising	\$3,000	\$	2,130	\$ 2,500
Communications	\$100	\$	-	\$ 100
Outreach	\$950	\$	1,500	\$ 1,700
Congregation Fellowship	\$0			\$ 750
Community Events	\$233	\$	1,500	\$ 750
Visitor Program	\$280	\$	-	\$ 200
<b>CONTINGENCY</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$217,225</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>120,289</b>	<b>\$ 232,448</b>
<b>INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$16,266</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(799)</b>	<b>\$ (11,700)</b>

3/4 of budget '08 projected income would be \$150,720  
3/4 of budget '08 projected expense would be \$162,920

General gifts total for '09 is total of expenses (less \$10K in pastor call & less benevolence).  
Total Income line reflects addition of benevolence.

## Excellent Choices for Conversation.

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As we look at the Budget presented for your consideration today, it's good to take a little time to break it down and dream/brainstorm about the possibilities instead of feeling frustrated. There are usually always options open, but it will take creative minds to dream them forward.

There is/has been a gap between what is needed in income and what we currently receive. Regular giving by the 72 giving units that comprise MLLC does not currently meet the monthly needs for operation. The biggest factor of that is the amount expended to maintain facility and pay mortgage...currently \$73,000.00 a year is "fixed cost" for that. No tweaking of the budget lines will satisfy that ongoing situation. So, let's get creative!

Here are some excellent Options:

- 1) Increase Regular Giving to cover all costs.**
  - a. Not economically the best time to encourage this, but then, it rarely is it!
  - b. What is the feasibility of such increases? What would it take to get there?
  - c. This places the responsibility for action upon the members instead of asking elected leadership to "fix" the problem by fixing the budget.
- 2) Encourage two tiered giving, to both building and general fund.**
  - a. Requires encouragement and definition of goals.
  - b. Runs the "risk" of folks choosing to support one over the other.
  - c. Historically and statistically however, this is shown to increase overall giving in a congregation, more so than option 1.
- 3) Engage in a Capitol Campaign to reduce mortgage through gifts and pledges.**
  - a. Significant energy output and expense required to do this well.
  - b. Much easier to engage in when working "toward" something new than for debt issues.
- 4) Entertain a "Miracle Sunday" option.**
  - a. This is a one time "push" to achieve a specific goal. Let's just say that our goal together is to enter 2009 without the burden of figuring out if we'll pay the mortgage. What we want to do is raise the \$40,000.00 on one day to take that off our plate. We would work diligently to put this goal in front of everyone, suggest what gifts will be needed to make it happen (ten gifts of \$4000.00, or twenty gifts of \$2000.00, or a mixture of x,y&z so that everyone has a goal to work toward.) Then on ONE designated Sunday we gather those gifts and have a whale of a celebration, and count them up to see if we make it. "Miracle Sundays" are good once every 3-5 year kind of endeavors.
- 5) Entertain sub-dividing the property for sale, selling unused portion to lower our debt.**
  - a. Requires investigation of land available, lot size, and advisability.
  - b. Question of how "marketable" it would be with hwy 50 frontage.
  - c. Would likely have to be residential if for lot sales.

- d. We do not get to choose or neighbors.
- e. Once it is sold, it is not re-claimable, so we would be making a first step toward either locking in our current size or committing to relocation.
- f. Best scenario is that the sale allows us to reduce mortgage load to something more manageable.

**6) Entertain selling the property and using the proceeds to re-locate, first into some kind of temporary space to grow and then to a location within the new growth areas of Lee's Summit.**

- a. Strong emotional attachment to current location will have to be overcome.
- b. Inconvenience of the "in-between" is a double edged experience. We get to claim "new" but we will also have to figure out how to live "gypsy" again. Advantage is that people are more inclined to join "new, let's go start...." than "Hey, help us pay off."
- c. If we utilized shared facilities (school, gym, etc.) we will lose one of our signature outreaches...one good meal.
- d. If we find temporary location (warehouse, abandoned retail, etc) we will have rental costs and will have to make sure those don't exceed what we were paying for mortgage.
- e. We will need to make decisions about what we keep, what we dispose of, and what is most important to us.
- f. There is no guarantee of what will become of this property. We have to ready for the emotional impact of someone else inhabiting this space, or seeing it bulldozed for other development.

**7) Engage Conversation with Synod concerning congregational Re-development process.**

- a. Request comes with some stipulations.
- b. Intentional Interim for Redevelopment is given wide latitude in day to day operations.
- c. Funding, if available, would be on a descending scale of support. (Think, as they stand up, we stand down...)
- d. Funding and opportunities for this are very limited.

**8) Consider partnership in staffing.**

- a. Shared staffing arrangement with another congregation.
- b. This is usually "stop-gap" in a setting like this. Growth is your preferred option.
- c. Sharing staffing is usually explored in declining population areas.

