

SAMMAMISH HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Meeting—March 9th, 2010

March Council Agenda:

Present Council Members

- Beth Woodward
- Scott Merritt
- Cam Barsness
- David Edson
- John LaMunyon
- Will Sappington
- David Miles
- Andy Tischaefter
- Sharon Sausville
- Elliott Hoole

Council members not present

- Dean Barnett

Guests

- Tom Ryan, Business administrator
- Linda Hines
- John K
- Peggy C

Call to Order and Devotions

- Beth called to order at 6:30

Lead Pastors report:

- Discussion/update on the issues presented to council for the evening.
 - i. Global Missions: John gave a background on the formation of the Global Missions team and the two areas within Tanzania that the ministry team is looking to support.
 - ii. Mortgage refinance
 - iii. Community Garden Resolution, which will need to go to congregational vote.
 - iv. Ministry of the month
 - v. Personal

Presentation by Global Missions Team

- Peg, John, and Linda presented their proposal to council regarding the work that they have been doing as a ministry team (especially after their trip to Africa in 2007) and where they saw their team going in the future. As a team, they have two major areas within Tanzania that they are looking to support.
 - i. , The team would like to support a church, but more specifically a school, in Morogoro (Bishop Mameo)

- ii. The team also feels strongly (especially Linda who has an obvious passion for this area of the world), that we need to support both an orphanage and a church in Songea.
- iii. Discussion:
 - 1. The mission team visited Tanzania and visited 3 different sites and is now looking to build a long term mission rather than a short term mission (i.e. a specific mission trip),
 - 2. Discussion with the Bishops of ELCT (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania) made the team believe that education would be one of the best ways that we can support the missions and the communities of Tanzania.
 - 3. Linda shared with council about the needs for Songea, and specifically how the Mwangaza Foundation is involved. Engineers without Boards and an architectural firm in Seattle are working with the foundation, pro bono, to help build the first residential orphanage in Songea.
 - 4. Sister Church relationship: Ways in which we can mutually support each other. The one thing about a sister relationship is that this would involve people at all levels rather than just a team going out once or twice year. With our support the church would start to build a conference center/training facilities in the heart of Songea, that once built, would provide income for the church.
 - 5. The team reiterated this is not charity but the proposal is meant to be a long-term commitment to these communities.
- iv. Discussion followed:
 - 1. David E.: Q - What are your expectations for giving in future years (seeing as this will essentially deplete a large amount of the Benevolence fund). John: A - We are not the annual funding source for these churches, and no promises have been made to them to make them think that. Linda: A - perhaps a way to provide in the future is to plan another fundraiser such as an auction.
 - 2. Tom: Q - is there an existing well or is the proposed well going to be the only well. Linda: A There is an existing well, also a small capacity well, so this well would be used to help provide for a larger number of families.
 - 3. John L: Q - Why a conference center? John K: A - Hard assets (such as buildings, school, etc.) are incredibly valuable to these community. The building is a symbolism of their evangelism. John L: Maybe the verbage should be changed - not a conference hall, but training center, town hall?
 - 4. Andy: Q - how often do you get in front of the congregation at SHLC to discuss your ministry? John K: A - So far we have not been in front of the congregation except to discuss our status report. The team as a whole needs to do a better job of educating the congregation. Communication from the congregations in Tanzania is the key and a major obstacle.

Peg mentioned that the newsletter articles and prayer requests are helping to spread the word and to keep the Tanzanian congregations in the minds of our SHLC members.

5. John L: Q - Is Barb Robertson going to continue with her position at the ELCA. John K: A - The ELCT is considering separating with the ELCA because of the sexuality issue, so Barb's position would change if that happened.
 6. John L: Q - What is more important to support, the church or the orphanage? Linda: A - The church because it will provide a bigger synergy within the larger community and the orphanage has support from other foundations.
- v. Everyone is free to email Linda, John or Peg with questions over the coming month.
- vi. The following proposals was given to council to consider.
1. Disbursement of funds:
- The formal establishment a long-term partnership between Sammamish Hills and the Lutheran Diocese in Morogoro by providing spiritual, financial, and intellectual support of the building of the Eben Ezer Lutheran secondary school.
 - The formal establishment of a Sister Congregation relationship with Songea Lutheran Parish (see attached proposal).
 - Financial support for the above and other Global Missions work through the disbursement of Benevolence and Restricted funds, as follows:
 - *From the Tanzania Mission Trip Restricted Fund, currently approx. \$2784.17:*
 - \$1392.08 For textbooks for Eben Ezer school in Morogoro. This amount includes the funds raised by the Sunday School children.
 - \$1392.08 To provide emergency funds for orphan care at the Mwangaza Foundation orphanage in Songea
 - **\$2784.17 Total**
 - *From the Benevolence Global Fund (approx. \$23,265.91)*
 - \$2,000 To support the youth mission trip to Guatemala this summer. These funds may be used to assist with expenses, travel scholarships, or to provide donations once in country. In return for this support, the Global Missions team requests a youth representative become a participant on the Global Missions team.
 - \$8,000 To support continued construction at Eben Ezer school in Morogoro.
 - \$8,000 To support construction and outreach projects in Songea Lutheran Parish. This support is contingent upon the establishment of a Sister Congregation relationship, noted above.
 - **\$18,000 Total**

- The team also requests \$4,000 of the remaining Benevolence Global Fund be reserved to support foreign travel of Sammamish Hills members who are official representatives of the congregation. Travel scholarships will be one set amount, and individuals wishing a scholarship must formally apply to the Global Missions team for the support. This reserve is not intended for use for youth mission trips, which are customarily funded through specific fundraisers.
**This should be dispersed and additional monies needed should be raised for.

2. Establishment of a Sister Church relationship with the Lutheran Church of Songea:

- **Step One:** Establish a Sister Church Relationship. The SLP Executive Committee has approved such a relationship and asked me to make a presentation to SHLC. Active connections can be established at many levels. SHLC Sunday School and Preschool children can get to know and undertake projects on behalf of the SLP Sunday School children and the children in its orphan program. SHLC Youth groups can connect to the Youth Choir and Band that just produced its first CD with music and lyrics written by its members. SHLC women in the church can establish relationships with the SLP women. Professionals at SHLC can volunteer their skills to advance SLP projects. SHLC can learn more about the dynamic SLP evangelism program that is bringing in new members each year. SHLC volunteers can travel to Songea on “Vision Trips” to assist in their Bible camp, orphan care program, children’s English classes, etc. (as well as go on safari to Ruaha National Park <http://www.tanzaniaparks.com/ruaha.html>). We can exchange articles and church news through our newsletters. SHLC members have already demonstrated an interest in Songea by providing project assistance to the *Mwangaza* Foundation building project in Songea, and Sunday School and Preschool children collected mosquito nets, money for oranges and clothing for orphans in 2009. Michael and Kathy Vance recently donated refurbished laptop computers for the SLP office, which will enable them to establish an internet connection and communicate regularly with us.
- **Step Two:** Identify a priority project at SLP and provide SHLC financial support. Attached is the SLP comprehensive projects plan. The number one priority identified by SLP members is the construction of a Conference Center, Hostel, and Restaurant. This facility will provide **community service and training, evangelizing opportunities, and income** to support and sustain the other ministries and projects outlined in their

strategic plan. SLP is located in the heart of downtown Songea, a town with limited public meeting space, safe, clean lodging, and restaurants. SLP has identified a need and is focusing their energies on meeting it. An \$8,000 donation from SHLC to begin construction of the Conference Center will enable SLP to launch this project, to be built in phases as indicted in the proposal.

- Council Discussion on the presentation and proposals:
 - i. Can the Bound Conscience fund be used to help support the global missions team?
 - ii. David E: this will deplete the fund. Do we then provide annual support? Does Africa become our only mission:
 1. John: A – Linda has a capacity and a passion for this ministry. Linda is not one that will let this ministry falter. We can change funding from year to year and just because we provide this year, we are not beholden to a specific group or area.
 2. Tom: A – wanted to spread out the wealth, but then we were giving to places without church representation. Thinks that we should support these people that are passionate.
 3. Scott: A - Linda has a passion, she is going to support these missions well. John K, will be the first to tell us not to send more money if it is not being spent correctly.
 - iii. John: regarding the sister church proposal: a non-staff lead team will need to be in charge of maintaining that status. It should be noted that neither Will nor John are in a place where they can go to Africa (Will due to time and children, John due to health concerns.) This means that another person from our congregation would need to fulfill the role of pastor in keeping with the pastor exchange function within a sister church relationship. Will noted that perhaps these exchanges could take place through other vehicles rather than just person to person (i.e. letter writing, emails, and possibly video).
 - iv. Qatamala trip: The concensus of council is to give the money without the caveat of having to have a youth representative on the Global Mission team. If the team desires to have a youth represented, they need to campaign for a youth that has that passion.
- Scott: moves to accept the proposal from the GMT with the following amendments:

<i>From the Tanzania Mission Trip Restricted Fund, currently approx. \$2784.17:</i>	
\$1392.09	For textbooks for Eben Ezer school in Morogoro. This amount includes the funds raised by the Sunday School children.
\$1392.08	To provide emergency funds for orphan care at the Mwangaza Foundation orphanage in Songea.
\$2784.17	Total

<i>From the Benevolence Global Fund (approx. \$23,265.91)</i>	
\$2,000	To support the 2010 Guatemala mission trip.
\$8,000	To support continued construction at Eben Ezer school in Morogoro.
\$8,000	To support construction and outreach projects in Songea Lutheran Parish. In doing so, we accept the sister relationship subject to a congregational approval.
\$18,000	Total

- MSP

Approve/Modify Agenda

- Agenda stands as is.

Approve Minutes of February Meeting

- Scott moved to accept the February minute meetings.
- MSP

President's Report

- Update on Prayer Ministry: Beth met with Barb and Debbie two days afterwards our last council meeting. Meeting went fairly well. The ministry team now has four new members.

Pastor of Worship and Outreach Report

- Ministry of the month: Will provided a two-year schedule for ministry of the month.
- Discussion:
 - John would like a team to develop around maintaining these schedules and working with each month ministry team rather than a Pastor (Will) running the ministry.
 - David E: Q – Microsoft/Boeing matching? Should we do a better job of asking people to get their employers match to their contributions. Tom: A – Tried to implement this in the past with very little success.
- John: Lutheran campus ministries – would ask that we consider removing them from the list. Through personal experience it is clear they are not active at the colleges we would support. Would suggest that we replace with Lutheran Ministry Services (Carolyn Kiser is on their board).
- Tom would ask to move Lutheran Counseling Network from July.
- Scott: moves to adopt the list with the following amendment: Remove Lutheran Campus Ministries from September and replace with Lutheran Counseling Network. Replace Lutheran Counseling Network in July with Lutheran Ministry Services Northwest.
- Seconded by Elliot
- Discussion: All were contacted by Will and responded favorably to being included on the list and were willing to send a rep for a temple talk.
- MSP
- New Schedule as approved by council:

2010

MAY	Lutherhaven
JUNE	Habitat For Humanity of East King County
JULY	Lutheran Ministry Services
AUGUST	Bridge Disability Ministries
SEPTEMBER	Lutheran Counseling Network
OCTOBER	Faith In Action
NOVEMBER	Northwest Harvest Christmas Gift Drive (Hopelink, Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank, St. Andrew's Housing)
DECEMBER	ELCA World Hunger

2011

JANUARY	Operation Nightwatch
FEBRUARY	Lutheran Community Services Northwest
MARCH	Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King Cty
APRIL	Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots
MAY	Lutherhaven
JUNE	Habitat For Humanity of East King County
JULY	Lutheran Ministry Services
AUGUST	Bridge Disability Ministries
SEPTEMBER	Lutheran Counseling Network
OCTOBER	Faith In Action
NOVEMBER	Northwest Harvest Christmas Gift Drive (Hopelink, Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank, St. Andrew's Housing)
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2012

JANUARY	Operation Nightwatch
FEBRUARY	Lutheran Community Services Northwest
MARCH	Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King Cty
APRIL	Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots

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Treasurer's Report: Offering through February are favorable. Expenses were all on par with expectations (in fact they were below, but that is based on timing rather than "banked savings" and is offset by overages from January). Our book keeping services will be discontinued at the end of March, as Allison is doing a great job and ready to take over those duties.

Old Business

- Ministry of the Month
 - Covered previously by will
- Resolution: Real Estate Debt Refinance
 - Proposed resolution:

WHEREAS, Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church has an outstanding debt, in the form of a note secured by a deed of trust, on its real estate with an

outstanding balance of \$280,000 (approx. as of 5/1/2010); interest Rate at 5%; monthly payment of \$5,673; and the paid in full date of 12/31/2014, and, WHEREAS, a member of the Congregation has offered to refinance this indebtedness for the same term at an interest rate of 3% per annum;

and, WHEREAS, the proposed refinance of this indebtedness will reduce the debt service from \$5,673.00 to \$5,365.00 per month;

and, WHEREAS, the savings over the remainder of the term of the note (through 12/31/2014) will be approximately \$17,000;

and, WHEREAS, the amount of the reduction of the payments will provide funding for certain maintenance projects by placing the monthly savings into the Building Fund on a monthly basis for the remainder of the term of the real estate debt.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Congregation Council shall be directed to move forward with all due haste in accepting the offer to refinance the existing real estate debt at the lower 3% rate.

- Resolution: Community Garden
 - Proposed resolution:
WHEREAS, the City of Sammamish (City) has requested that Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church (SHLC) provide land under and around the former Youth and Family building for a Community Garden; and,
WHEREAS, the City has asked that SHLC lease the ground to the City for a period of five (5) years at no rent; and,
WHEREAS, the City is willing to demolish and remove the Youth and Family building at no cost to SHLC; and,
WHEREAS, the Community Garden will be governed by a board that will be made up of people from SHLC and the community; and,
WHEREAS, the proposed Community Garden location would be in a location that would not be needed for any expansion of space for SHLC;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Congregation Council shall be directed to move forward with negotiating a five (5) year lease with the City for the area currently occupied by the Youth and Family building plus additional land, so long as it would not be needed for SHLC expansion during the term.
- Congressional meeting:
 - Sharyon moves to call a special meeting of the Congregation for April 11, 2010 at 5pm in the fellowship hall. The meeting agenda will include the Real Estate Debt Refinance resolution, consideration of Songea Lutheran Church for sister parish status, and the resolution concerning a Community Garden.
 - MSP

New Business

- Sick Leave:
 - Motion: One week of sick leave be transferred to Kim (on a rate conversion dollar for dollar basis). This would allow her to continue to heal and still be paid and receive health benefits.

- MSP
- Continuing Education Request from Carol Churchill
 - We do not have a budget for this. She was told last year that we need to plan for this type of thing. Will noted that we have a line item for musician training events (current budget of \$360).
 - John's council is to direct this back to Will, as Pastor of Worship and Outreach.

Other Business

- Install ALL council member next week, March 14, 2010 during both 9 am and 10:30 services.
- Council member bulletin board was brought up as an idea to discuss at another meeting- Who does not get pictured? Preschool? Office staff?

Adjourn – Lord's Prayer

- Adjourned at 9:10 MSP