

## Bethel Women's Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2011

The meeting was attended by seventeen Bethel members. The following circles were represented: Celebration, Peace, Seekers, Blessings, Rejoice, Joy, Dorcas, Abigail, Grace, Celebration, Inspiration and University Hill Farms. In addition the following position/groups had a representative present: WCC Secretary, New Member Liaison, Bethel Book Club, Bethel Archives, WCC President and Pastoral Advisor.

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Nancy Wanless. Pastor Swanson opened in prayer. Attendees sang *Good Soil* accompanied by Patrick Kenney on piano.

### II. Approval of Old Minutes

The meeting minutes from the April 12, 2011 meeting were approved.

### III. Old Business

#### A. A Report on the Tenth Biennial Convention in Reedsburg (Nancy Wanless)

Nancy reported on the Tenth Biennial Convention held June 10-11, 2011. The theme of the convention was *Love your Neighbor*. She shared with the group the Handbook given to attendees at the convention and shared her enthusiasm for a workshop she attended entitled *Healing Oils of the Bible*. Also noted in the Handbook was a section that included the year-end Financial Report as well as a list of other participating churches in the synod. She found the display of *Religious Icons around the World* very interesting.

Nancy also wanted to bring to the attention of young women the *Bold Café* electronic magazine for young women. It can be found on the *Bold Café* Website, [www.boldcafe.org](http://www.boldcafe.org). "CAFÉ" is "an electronic magazine for young women who want to build Community, participate in Advocacy, strengthen Faith, and strive toward Enlightenment." One of our circles uses this electronic magazine as a topic of discussion for their monthly meetings.

Nancy encouraged women to attend the conventions and conferences that are held by our women's synodical organization throughout the year. Unfortunately, she was the sole delegate and Bethel member to attend the Biennial Convention.

#### B. Update on LWR (Nancy Beck)

**Blessings Circle Needs Your Help** Blessings Circle will again need assistance with the Lutheran World Relief project this year. Since Blessings Circle currently has only 5 members, they will need assistance with checking and packing LWR kits. Although finalized dates and times have not been chosen for packing and checking kits they know they will need assistance from others.

Pastor John suggested that confirmation homerooms or the youth group may be a potential source of volunteers. Volunteers willing to help for 2-3 hours should contact Bev Hanson, who is chairing and organizing our LWR efforts for 2011. Bev's phone number is 274-6122, her email is [hansonbev@att.net](mailto:hansonbev@att.net) Flyers were distributed at the meeting listing the above information. Thanks to all volunteers in advance for your willingness to assist!

#### **Additional Information about LWR**

- ❖ Blessings Circle will hand out kit information on three separate Sundays in the parking lot entrance of Bethel.
- ❖ The train will be coming Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- ❖ Changes for kit contents are in store for next year. But for this year we will be using the 2010 standards. The school kit bags will be the same as last year's tote-style bag. (A **BIG** thanks to Bev Hanson for conducting online research into the new backpack bags required for next year's school kit and placing the information for ordering these bags in chart form on the LWR website. Your efforts will be appreciated by countless women!)
- ❖ Blessings Circle would like to recognize and thank the following women for their efforts in knitting/crocheting baby sweaters for the Layette Kits!  
They are : Lila Mathwick, Deb Pryzwara and Jean Unversagt
- ❖ A question was raised whether circles could take responsibility for checking their kits themselves and confirming kit contents, thereby saving others from rechecking them later. Nancy thought this would be acceptable as long as the following information was included with the kits: Standard of kits packed-2010 or new standard and number of kits made. As a precaution, double-check with Bev Hanson before doing so.

#### **C. Mother's Day Brunch (Pastor Swanson)**

The Mother's Day brunch raised a sum of \$1332.50 for the Triennial account. The income from the brunch was \$2545.00, and the expenses totaled \$1212.50. A balance of \$6,206.68 remains in the Triennial account. Monies from this account will be used for reimbursements when the Triennial attendees return from Spokane.

#### **D. Spring Serenade (Nancy Wanless)**

The Spring Serenade turned out to be a great opportunity for Bethel members to take advantage of. The food was fabulous and the music was wonderful and all who attended had a great time. The event was a non-fundraiser and ended with a -\$15.06 balance. Nancy suggested we plan more events like this in the future.

E. **East/West Spring Conference at St. Stephens, Monona** April 30, 2011 (Nancy Wanless)

The theme of the conference was diversity. Seven women from various cultures spoke about their personal experiences, cultural practices, their culture of origin and addressed questions. The lunch provided was a cultural exchange as well as attendees were able to enjoy many different ethnic dishes. Please see the July issue of *The Trumpeter* for more information about the conference. Attendee Bev Hanson wrote a wonderful recap of the event.

F. **Treasurer's Report** (Flora Sprecher)

**Account Balances:** **Triennial**-\$6,206.68 **Special Projects**-\$1,292.66

**Blessed to be a Blessing**-\$1,059.13 The balance of the account will be sent in November after the subgroup identifies the missions for disbursement. Nine out of nineteen circles have participated.

**Worship Offering**-\$517 Five circles participated. This offering is sent again at the end of the year so circles still have an opportunity to support this offering. This income is used for the core work of the women of the ELCA from 7,800 congregations. This offering helps the budget by contributing to operational costs and programs and resources to support the larger church, other women of faith, and those in need around the world.

**Oakwood Service League** The balance is presently \$50 from one circle but the report is not yet complete as this offering is collected in July.

**Skaalen House** Five circles contributed a total of \$220.00. A check was written for that amount and a "Thank You" was received from Dawn Zaemisch and passed during the meeting. The monies given will be used for projects selected in their 2011 budget.

**ELCA Mission Opportunities** WCC Treasurer Jeanne Gill would like to encourage women to take this information back to their group and prayerfully consider a donation to these missions.

G. **Women's Directory Updates** (Jo Thomley)

The update of the Women's Ministry Directory is going very well thanks to the outstanding assistance provided by Bethel intern Anna Spiekerman. Anna would like to add new graphics and photos to the Women's Directory. Circles interested in submitting photos of their circle members should give them to the church office or email to Jo Thomley as soon as possible. Please have your photos submitted by the middle of August.

The following circles have asked to be eliminated from the directory: Harmony, Hope, Miriam and Squares. Dinah Thies from Grace Circle offered to talk to remaining members of Harmony Circle to see if they would like to join her circle since they are in the same geographic area.

H. **Triennial Gathering in Spokane-July 14-17 , 2011** (Jo Thomley)

Eight women from Bethel will be attending the Triennial in Spokane. Please keep them in your prayers.

**Triennial Offerings** A total of \$600 was set aside to be used for gifts at the Triennial as was decided during the last WCC meeting. Funds from the WCC in the amount of \$400 was combined with \$200 from special offerings given by some of our circles.

**In-kind Gift Presentation** –Gift choices were: Health Kits, School Kits, Support Kits, Quilt Kits, Gift Cards, Phone Cards and Socks. Bethel Lutheran Church will be donating ten gift cards in the amount of \$30 each to be used by the women of Spokane. Thanks to Jo Thomley for the creative card she made to present with the gift cards!

**Worship Offering**-A total of \$300 will be given to support the following missions:

- Women of the ELCA \$150
- Malaria Initiative \$75
- Women of Peace and Security in Africa \$75

IV. **New Business**

A. **Ann Wickland, Youth Ambassador in India** (Nancy Wanless)

Nancy would like to schedule an evening to hear Bethel member Ann Wickland talk about her experience in India as a member of the Youth Ambassador program. A date has not yet been scheduled so please watch for more information about this event.

B. **Pastor Everson's Birthday Celebration** (Nancy Wanless)

A gathering is in the planning phase for a celebration of Pastor Everson's 79<sup>th</sup> birthday. The event would include a potluck luncheon at Bethel near or on his birthday of August 9<sup>th</sup>. Nancy will check the Bethel schedule and talk to Pastor Everson to decide on a time and date. More information will be emailed as it becomes available.

C. **Women's Ministries Fall Update-Two Locations** Grace Lutheran & Hope Lutheran (Patty Saxe)

Each year the SWO (Synodical Women's Organization) holds an update in Fall to present new information and keep members informed on what is planned for the upcoming year. Officers are strongly encouraged to attend and all interested members are welcome. There are two locations for this meeting; one on each side of the Synod.

**Grace Lutheran-Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011** at 6 p.m.

1105 N. Bequette St., Dodgeville, WI (The church is located just south of the stoplight where Hwy. 23 crosses Hwy. 18)

**Hope Lutheran-Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011** at 6 p.m.

3702 County Road AB, east of Madison, just north of Hwy. 12/18. The address is McFarland but it is located out of town.

The meetings will begin at 6:15 p.m. and should wrap up before 8:30 p.m. For more information about these gatherings contact by email: [lienfarm2@netwurx.net](mailto:lienfarm2@netwurx.net)

**D. Prayer Shawl Ministry** (Helen Kruse)

The prayer shawl ministry is still in need of leadership. Helen Kruse would be willing to assist any volunteer in learning the responsibilities of this position.

**E. Camperships Still Needed** (Nancy Wanless)

Presently 14 more camperships are still needed. The cost of a campership is \$275. Prayerfully consider this opportunity to support the mission at Bethel Horizons.

**F. Review of Month-by-Month Mission Opportunities** (Jo Thomley)

The list of month-by-month mission opportunities (pages 44-46) in the *Women's Ministry Resource Guide* was reviewed to determine if any deletions needed to be made to the list of missions that are supported by the WCC. After review, a decision was made to continue to support all the missions listed. Please consult the *Women's Ministry Resource Guide* to familiarize yourself with the monthly opportunities for mission support. There is a wealth of information in the guide.

**V. Closing Prayer**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. and Pastor John closed in prayer. A special prayer was said for our eight Bethel women attending the Triennial.

**Next WCC meeting October 11, 2011 at noon**

Respectfully submitted by Patty Saxe (WCC Secretary)