

***LIMITED COPIES: PLEASE BRING WITH YOU
TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING***

**2009 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
First Reformed Church
Sioux Falls, South Dakota**



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

Our Mission:

We are the fellowship of Christ's disciples empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the love of Jesus to a lost and broken world 'God to Loved'."

First Reformed Church

Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

December 6, 2009

1. Opening Devotions
 - *Hymn #125 “Joy to the World”
 - Scripture and Meditation
 - Prayer
2. Quorum declared
3. Approval of the December 8, 2008 Congregational meeting minutes and March 3, 2009 Special Congregational meeting minutes. These minutes can be found on the final pages of this report.
4. Appointment of tellers: Deacons
5. Count of communicant members present and report of number of proxy votes
6. Election of Elders and Deacons

Retiring Elders

Chuck Hoelscher
Tim Klein
Brad Whitsell

Retiring Deacons

Lisa Drenth
Dan Dykstra
Dan Schwebach

We need to elect three Elders and three Deacons for three year terms. The one Elder and one Deacon receiving the highest number of votes but not elected for a three year term will serve as the alternate Elder and Deacon. The Consistory presents the following nominees:

For Elder

Tim Ageton
Vince Green
Maury VerSteege
Jim Westra

For Deacon

Jo Beal-Wick
Jay Headley
Joel Klatt
Lloyd Van Dyk

We will use a single majority vote for election unless desired otherwise by the congregation.

7. Pastoral and Organization reports while ballots are counted.
8. 2009 Fiscal year report.
9. 2010 Proposed Budget
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment
12. Closing Prayer

Statistics for 2009 Are as Follows

(November 2008 through October 2009)

13 - Births
13 - Infant baptisms
0 - Adult baptisms
6 - Weddings – members and non-members
5 - Deaths

New Members Received:

2 - Confession of Faith
7 - Reaffirmation of Faith
19 - Transferred In

Membership Losses:

6 - Transferred Out
5 - Deaths
16 - Placed on Inactive List
37 - Dropped

Present Church Families

310 - Families
(includes active, shut-in, inactive (24),
and regular attenders (31) families

240 active households
15 active shut-in households
255 total active households

Present Membership:

459 Active Communicants
156 Baptized Members
615 Total Baptized Members

Average Worship Attendance:

1999 – 439
2000 – 404
2001 – 421
2002 – 419
2003 – 411
2004 – 392
2005 – 388
2006 – 389
2007 – 359
2008 – 355
2009 – 356

Those Who Have Joined First Reformed Church November 2008 through October 2009

Transfer In

Mark Van Dyk
Deb Brenneman
Ben & Stacey Temple
Joel Klatt
Mike & Karen DeWitt
Karin Rosman (Remmarde)
Adam Rosman
Kerri Stiles
Jason Doppenberg
Erica Holland
Alan & Patricia Zwart
Wendi Schalekamp
TJ & Lisa Speer
Scott & Lindsay Speer

Profession of Faith

Tessa (VanDyk) Thomas
Carissa Van Hemert

Re-Affirmation of Faith

Lisa Machmiller
Vicki Klatt
Scott Wick
Renee Leffers
Jason Whiting
Diego & Brenda Vallejo

Fellowship Team 2010 Schedule

January – Team #2
February – Team #3
March – Team #4
April – Team #5
May – Team #1
June – Team #2
July – Team #3
August – Team #4
September – Team #5
October – Team #1
November – Team #2
December – Team #3

Amount Received From Congregation For Monthly Special Offerings

January – First Priority - \$503.00
February – KNWC - \$931.00
March – Union Gospel Mission - \$644.00
April – Furniture Mission - \$627.00
May – Inspiration Hills - \$572.20
June – Gideons - \$805.00
July – Bethesda Christian Counseling - \$625.00
August – The Banquet - \$708.00
September - Sioux Falls Cares - \$645.00
October – Hope Haven - \$933.00
November – Emergency Fund –
December – Center of Hope

Pastor Steve's Message

Last Summer Don DeKok mentioned that there are people who have been involved in Church development who visit congregations to help churches assess how they are doing in the area of outreach and assimilation. I was really interested in this. I wondered, what would happen if a dozen or so visitors came through our doors through the year and would report on what they discovered here. Did they get welcomed? Did they get invited to Sunday school or the Coffee Fellowship time? By whom? Did they see cliques? Was the pastor friendly? Would they consider this to be a possible church choice based on their experience? What comments would they have? I saw that there could be great insight attained by special visitors.

Don DeKok set up these visitors who came through this congregation between the dates September 13 – November 22. No one here would know them. Only a handful of people (Worship Committee and myself) knew this was happening. These visitors came from Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota. Most were involved in some form of church multiplication or development in the RCA. The visitors were not to have direct connections with this congregation. Many had never been here before. No one would know what Sunday they would visit or what service they would attend. It was not always easy figuring out who they were because many Sunday's we have 6 – 10 visitors, many times with NW Iowa roots. There were times those who knew this was going on made the mistake of assuming the couple, family, were evaluating us when actually they were really looking at our church as a possible church home! I did suggest that it would be best if these visitors, during the course of their visits, attended both services. All the visitors were given a questionnaire before they came to visit. (That Questionnaire is available along with their responses) They were to keep a note pad with them to write down all the names of people who actually introduced themselves by name that Sunday. If the greeters did not actually introduce themselves they did not put down the name. If the individual said, "Hi, I'm Brian and I'm a greeter," they did. The visitor could inquire about fellowship time and Sunday school but if they were not invited they would not attend. On occasion they stated, "That sounds like a great Sunday School class, we would love to attend that," but if the person they were talking with didn't say, "Why not come with us?" or "Here is where you need to go," they did not attend. Actually they would not know where the East Room or meeting place was anyway even if they wanted to attend! We wanted our members to step up and be more direct with visitors.

Most those questionnaires have been sent to us and the Worship Committee has evaluated them. You are free to look at them if you like. We may repeat this process down the road at some time.

We encourage everyone to be more direct and open with visitors. If someone looks familiar, talk to them. If you suspect someone is a visitor, introduce yourself. Ask if they are interested in a Sunday school class or coffee fellowship. Take them with you to the fellowship hall or Sunday school class. Introduce them to others in the church. If you discover they have been members here for 10 years you simply need to say, "It is time we meet and get to know each other isn't it?" Visitors want to be talked to. They don't want to feel awkward or left out. We need to become more secure and forthright in this process. They are here; they are here for a reason. We will be doing this again sometime in the future.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve and your Worship Committee

Director of Education Report

Education Reports

ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT

Building a foundation of knowledge that shows us God's perspective leading us into a conviction that motivates us to use our skills and results in a character that is like Christ. Ultimate Goal – Be Like Christ!

Have you thought of what has happened to you in the past to make you the person you are today? This is a great question to contemplate. I have been thinking about this question quite frequently since I attended the Focused Living Retreat here at church.

Values are the core-convictions that shape our actions and decisions. They are usually formed by the lessons we have learned throughout our life through times of difficulty and testing.

One of the exercises we did at the retreat was to write out our core values. We named the core value and then described the significant lesson behind that value. This was a great exercise in making me think about what I truly value in my life. What lessons have I learned from God to make up my core values. Where is my faith? Do I put my family first? Do I use the talents that God gave me to further His kingdom? Do I have an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ?

These core values were then incorporated into my personal calling statement. God has shaped my life and now I want to use those lessons to live according to God's plan for my life.

One of the scripture passages that come to mind when I think of the process that I have been working through in building my personal calling statement is Ecclesiastes 3:1-8:

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.”

My life is shaped by God and the experiences that I have had since birth. These experiences have made me into the person that I am today. I need to constantly keep my focus on God and His plan for my life, not MY plan for my life. Everything in my life has happened for a reason.

I would like to encourage you to think about your life and what core values you would write down. Are you following God's will for your life? What would your personal calling statement look like?

All of us, including our children, need to look at what has happened in our lives to build our character. By looking at our past, it helps to build relationships with others that might be going through the same experiences that you have already gone through. These experiences can lead others to a relationship with Jesus Christ. Open your heart to God's leading.

Thank you for supporting the education at First Reformed Church.

God Bless,
Pam Green
Director of Education

EDUCATION REPORTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Sunday School hour is from 9:50 to 10:35 a.m. each Sunday morning. All Kindergarteners through 5th graders experience Rotation Sunday School downstairs. The children are rotated through five different workshops during a five week period of time. The Doves and Lambs (3 year olds through Kindergarten) meet upstairs in a regular classroom setting. We are averaging 75 kids in Sunday School on Sunday morning. We currently have 4 adult Sunday School classes in session. The adult Sunday School attendance is around 55 adults. A special thank you to all of our teachers and parents that are making these programs so successful. What a great way to learn more about Jesus!

CHILDREN & WORSHIP – During the morning worship services, all children from 3 years old to 1st grade are dismissed from the morning service to attend Children & Worship. We have averaged 3 children at the first service and 16 at the second service. Children experience worship at their own level in Children & Worship. Children & Worship focuses on the essential elements of worship and the Biblical stories that take part throughout the church year. Children will sing songs, learn sign language, hear God's story, read from God's word and learn to pray together. We would like to thank all of the teachers who have taught throughout this past year: Gaylene Christensen, Lori Wynja, Dawn Wubben, Trisha Justice, Stacey Reitz, Becky Lundgren, Janet Anthes, Rebecca Schutte, Dawn Van Nieuwenhuyzen, Amanda Hanten, & Pam Green. Also, thank you to all of the greeters who help the teachers each Sunday.

PIONEER CLUB – Pioneer Club is held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for all Kindergarteners through 5th graders. Children are learning as they have fun at Pioneer Club! Small groups are formed according to the children's gender and age. The kids then work with their small group leader to earn Bible awards, memorize scripture, make projects, and take part in special mission projects. We currently have 64 children registered for Pioneer Club. We have 6 small groups. A special thank you to the small group leaders: Becky Lundgren, Rebecca Schutte, Chris Bordewyk, Judy Spaans, Lori Ontjes, Joni Boon, Dave Boon, Joel Bordewyk, Mark Berg, Nick Grant, Vince Green & Dave Van Nieuwenhuyzen. Also, thank you to Pastor Steve who runs the gathering and game room every night.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – The 2009 summer VBS program was entitled "Crocodile Dock – Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light." Kids explored amazing Bible adventures like God speaking to Moses in a burning bush and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. We had an average of 93 children daily from Monday through Thursday. Many new faces attended Bible School this year with visitors and surrounding neighborhood kids. We ended the week with a program that included singing and acting. The offering taken was given to the Sioux Falls Food Pantry. The children did a great job learning, playing, singing and praising God together. We couldn't have had Bible School without a great staff of teachers, helpers, music leaders, and craft leaders.

KICK-OFF SUNDAY – On September 13th First Reformed Church celebrated Sunday School kick-off with a worship service and potluck. The church service began at 10 a.m. with the Steve Tregue & the Tregglusions leading us in worship. We enjoyed fellowship together after the worship service serving chicken to over 320 people. This is a special way to kick-off our Education programs and become spiritually energized for a new year!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – This year's Sunday School program is scheduled for December 20th. All children from 3 years old to 5th grade will take part. The prelude for the Christmas program will be done by any of the children who wish to share their talents with us. The 3 and 4 year olds will begin the program with a few songs. The Kindergarteners through 5th graders will then perform "Shepherds, Sheep and A Savior." Come join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus in drama and song.

LIBRARY - The church library has many books, cd's, and movies available for checkout on a weekly basis. Approximately 900 items were checked out this past year. A complete listing of all items available for check out can be found in the library. A special thank you to Dawn Wubben, the library ministry team chair, and Heidi Grant, Mari Perrenoud, and Dawn Van Nieuwenhuyzen, who serve on the library ministry team.

Youth Ministry Report

12:30 Student Ministries

Another year has zoomed by and looking back it has truly been a blessing to see the way that God has worked in and through all of your students. The past year has brought many changes including a new facility for our Wednesday night program and Sunday school, saying farewell to Chris and Rhonda, and a new format for our Wednesday nights. Let's take a look at some of the stuff that has happened in the past year.

Dare 2 Share Chicago: This has always been a great event for the youth. This year the students were challenged to dive deeper into their faith and encouraged to share God's great story of redemption to the world around them. The trip also included a visit to Chicago's Sears Tower.

MS Retreat in Okoboji: What was supposed to be an exciting weekend turned into an even more exciting all-nighter. With poor weather approaching, Bob Cleveringa made the call to squeeze a weekend's worth of activities into one night. The night ended up being a great time for the students and every one involved did a great job going with the flow.

Pine Ridge Mission Trip: The Pine Ridge Reservation contains two of the nations poorest counties. Our high school students did a wonderful job this week. It was so wonderful to watch them interact with the children they worked with as well as the other groups that joined us on the trip.

Power Connection 2009: This was a great event. Though we did not make it into the work camp this year we were still able to spend three days serving the local community here in Sioux Falls before the students headed off to Kansas City. In KC the students were blessed by some great worship music and some challenging teaching. This week was a great success!

12:30 Wednesday Nights: This year our Wednesday Night program looks different from years past. This year our meal and fellowship time is at the center of our night. The MS and HS then transition between times of teaching, worship, and games. Every month we have two different kinds of nights.

1. Teaching Nights- These nights we focus on a specific topic or series. We have just finished up a series on the book of Exodus and are headed to a short series on Advent.
2. Family Service Nights- these nights we have spent serving in the community. We have found a niche at the VOA thrift store and have had a great time building relationships with the people who work there.

This is just a small sample of the things God has been doing this past year. I look forward to the things He has in store for your students in the coming year. Thank you for your prayers, blessings and your support.

Grace + Peace
Alex O'Hara

Youth Treasurer's Report

Youth Treasurer's Report

(Based on Sept 08-Aug 09)

Trips/Retreats Taken By Youth:

	Cost	Number of Youth & Adults Attending
MS Okoboji Retreat	\$1,888	24
Dare to Share	\$3,988	24
MS Power Connection	\$2,732	14
HS Pine Ridge Mission Trip	<u>\$6,867</u>	20
	\$15,475	

Fundraisers:

	Profit Made		
HyVee Gift Cards	\$1,753	Total gift cards sold:	\$36,835
Big Soo Books	\$910		
50's Drive In	\$569		
Auction	\$6,968		
Potato Feed	<u>\$843</u>		
	\$11,043		

The youth are sponsoring a 1/4 share for the Nathan Brownell-RCA Missionary in Japan-\$1,500
-the money for the Brownell's is coming out of what is earned from the fundraisers

Balance at 1/1/09	\$20,147
Balance at 10/31/09	\$11,410

Nurture/Outreach Team Report

In 2009, the Nurture and Outreach teams continued to work together to tie in as many work related projects as possible for the monthly recipient of the special offering. 2009 was also filled with a variety of activities and mission projects. This year, we were fortunate to have some of our members bring their vision or ideas to the committee and help them move these forward. A couple examples of these were: Nurture Meals and tickets to the Church Basement Ladies. We want to encourage anyone who has an idea for Nurture or Outreach to bring their idea to one of the committee members. Our goal is to sponsor events offering fellowship, fun, and a chance to witness the love of Christ to others.

Activities for 2009 have included....

- Super Bowl event in the fellowship hall
- Family Fun night
- New member luncheon
- Picked up furniture for the Furniture Mission
- Easter Egg hunt at the Anthes' place
- Ice cream social
- Saturday at Inspiration Hills
- Coffee/Hot chocolate, cappuccino machines during fellowship time
- Helping with the Banquet Backpack Drive
- Serving a meal at the Banquet
- Providing services at the Union Gospel Mission the 3rd Monday of every even month
- Serving meals at The Center of Hope the 3rd Tuesday of every odd month
- Sponsoring the Baby Shower Drive
- Cooking and Providing Nurture Meals monthly
- Attending Women of Faith Conference in Minneapolis with Community Reformed Church
- Sponsoring group tickets for Church Basement Ladies
- Sponsoring the Soup & Pie supper (\$1,421 was raised for the building project)
- Congregational Meeting Potluck & Crafts for kids

In closing, we would like to recognize and thank everyone who has helped served on the Nurture and Outreach Teams in 2009 and also thank our many church members who have helped with any of the events we have sponsored. We couldn't do it without your help. We continue to look to God for guidance and direction this coming year and thank and praise Him for the many blessings we have received during the past year. We welcome anyone who has a passion for Nurture or Outreach and feel that God is calling you to one of these teams. Please don't hesitate to talk to a committee member. We would love to have you on the team.

Nurture: Lisa Drenth, Jeff Spaans, Darrel Kooi, Matt Kaschmitter, Denny Brunsting, Donna Larsen, Diane Nagel, Doug Sadler

Outreach: Jeff Christensen, Darcy VanGorp, Dan Schwebach, Jay Nagel, Maury Versteeg, Patti Kuck, JoAnn Bradshaw

Senior Fellowship Report

Annual Report – Sept. 2008-Sept. 2009

Senior Fellowship meets the fourth Tuesday each month with 25-30 members present. Our meeting begins with devotions and singing, followed by the business meeting and a special program. The past year's programs were:

September – Mary Olinger and Make-A-Wish foundation

October – Gene Rowernhorst

November – Honoring our Veterans with Neal Landeen

December – cancelled due to weather

January – Speaker from Butterfly House

February – Catered meal and sing-along with Don and Carol Nugteren

March – Mission Trip – Jody Alsobrook and Lyle Kroon

April – Transport for Christ and Fresh Start Chapel at truck stop on Cliff and I-90 with Rollyn and Carolyn Van Beek

May – Medications and the elderly – Matt Kaschmitter

June – Following a catered lunch, Bob Van Ningen shared his trip on Honor Flight to the Memorials, etc. in Washington, D.C.

July – Pam and Children

August – Pastor Steve and Janet

A light lunch is served and we put together the First Edition Newsletter. Monthly offerings are used for cards for members and a memorial to KNWWC in memory of a deceased member. If there is a remaining balance, a mission is chosen. We encourage and invite anyone 55 and older to join us for fellowship.

Present Officers are: President.....June Bruns
Vice President.....Earl Parry
SecretaryBernice Ymker
Treasurer.....MaryAnn Van Zee
Card Chairperson.....Jean VanNingen

Respectfully submitted by June Bruns, President

Senior Fellowship Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand November 1-2008	\$74.82
Offerings.....	532.41.
Expenses.....	<u>352.22</u>

Balance as of Nov. 1, 2009 \$255.01

Mary Ann Van Zee, Treasurer

First Reformed Church
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
Sioux Falls, SD
December 8, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Pastor Steve Anthes opened the Meeting with Devotions and Prayer

OP

Quorum declared
65 Members Present
16 Proxies
84 Total

M/S/C to approve the December 10, 2007 and March 30, 2008 Congregational Meeting minutes.

Appointment of tellers: Deacons

Count of communicant members present and report of number of proxy votes

Vice President Denny Brunsting thanked the retiring Elders and Deacons

Retiring Elders

Denny Brunsting

Arlyn VanderWolde

Ronn King

Retiring Deacons

Dennis Olsen

Tim Loof

Kirby Reitz

We need to elect three Elders and three Deacons for three year terms. The one Elder and one Deacon receiving the highest number of votes but not elected for a three year term will serve as the alternate Elder and Deacon. The Consistory presents the following nominees:

For Elder

Jeff Spaans

Ed Van Dyke

Darcy Van Gorp

Dave Whisler

For Deacon

John DeVos

Vickie Goodwin

McChyne Rall

M/S/C to approve the election of: Jeff Spaans, Darcy VanGorp, Dave Whisler to the office of Elder. John DeVos, Vickie Goodwin, McChyne Rall to the office of Deacon.

Jeff Christensen provided an update on the Building Expansion project.

2008 Fiscal year report was presented.

2009 Proposed Budget was presented.

M/S/C to approve the November 30, 2008 fund balances.

M/S/C to approve the 2009 Budget of First Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD as presented.

M/S/C to adjourn

Pastor Steve closed with Prayer

CP

Rev. Steven A. Anthes, President

Charles Hoelscher, Clerk

Special Congregational Meeting Minutes

First Reformed Church

Sioux Falls, SD
March 8, 2009
9:30 AM

Pastor Steve opened with Prayer

OP

Vice-President Gene Rowenhorst called the meeting to order and declared a quorum was present.

New Business

Vice-President Rowenhorst appointed the deacons as tellers to do a count and report a quorum.

72 Members Present

Vice-President Rowenhorst gave an explanation of the proposed Bylaw changes.

M/S/C to adopt the bylaw changes to Article IV Sections 1,5,6,8 of First Reformed Church Sioux Falls, SD as follows:

ARTICLE IV

CONSISTORY

Section 1: AFFAIRS AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CHURCH

The affairs and management of the church shall be under the direction and control of a board consisting of the Minister and the duly elected Elders and Deacons of such church, serving as the Consistory of such church. The Consistory shall consist of an equal number of Elders and Deacons. The Consistory shall have not less than twelve or more than eighteen members as determined by the Consistory from time-to-time, subject to the requirements of these By-Laws. (Amended 3/8/09).

Section 5: ELECTION AND TERMS OF OFFICE

At each annual meeting there shall be elected not less than two Elders and Deacons to serve for terms of three years commencing the following January. If there are more nominees than expiring Elder or Deacon Offices, the nominees for each office receiving the most votes shall be elected. If there are an equal number of nominees as vacant Elder or Deacon Offices, then each such nominee shall be elected, except those failing to receive a majority of votes approving their election. Any Elder or Deacon elected for a term of less than three years may be re-elected to that position. However, any Elder or Deacon elected for a term of three years, upon the completion of that term, shall not be eligible for election to the office of Elder or Deacon until the second annual election following which the successor to such Elder or Deacon was elected. (Amended 3/8/09).

Section 6: NOMINATIONS

The Consistory, or a nominating committee selected by the Consistory from the communicant members of the church shall submit names of not less than one communicant member of the congregation for each Elder and Deacon position to be filled, which names shall be published to the congregation in the church bulletin on at least each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the annual meeting. (Amended 3/8/09).

Section 8: VACANCIES

When an Elder or Deacon is unable to complete their three year term, and at the previous Congregational Meeting there were more nominees than Elders or Deacons elected, as applicable, the nominee that received the most votes among the unelected nominees for such office shall be considered an alternate and complete the unexpired term of the Elder or Deacon. If there was no such unelected nominee(s) at the previous Congregational Meeting, the Consistory shall appoint a former member of the greater Consistory who previously held the vacated office to complete the unexpired term. (Amended 3/8/09).

M/S/F to change proposed vision statement

M/S/C to adopt the Vision Statement of First Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD

“We are a fellowship of Christ’s disciples empowered by the Holy Spirit to live out Christ’s love to a lost and broken world ‘God So Loved’.”

M/S/C to adjourn

Pastor Steve Closed with Prayer

CP

Rev. Steven J. Anthes
Pastor

Charles J. Hoelscher
Clerk