

Faith Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting  
January 26, 2020

President Bruce Trevithick called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Opening devotion from Pastor Scott based on hymn # 644, *The Church's One Foundation*. Those in attendance joined in singing the first verse and Pastor discussed the church's challenges and led us in prayer.

Attendance sheets were distributed. Official head count was 67. Sign-in sheet on file.

Review of the annual meeting minutes from January 27, 2019 presented by Bruce Trevithick. Motion by Jim Putnam to accept the minutes as presented and seconded by Gil Montez. Motion carried.

**Staff Reports:** Bruce pointed out the written reports in the packets that were distributed, had the staff who were present introduce themselves and provided the opportunity to ask them questions.

**Introduction of Board Members:** Board members in attendance introduced themselves.

**Introduction of Elders and Elders Report:**

Matt Guinn shared the annual report from the Elders and referred those in attendance to his written report in the packet. He then reviewed changes to the church membership in the past year, which was also in the packet. He provided the opportunity to ask questions. As is required, the congregation must formally approve these changes. Motion by Gil Montez was made to approve the membership changes as presented and seconded by Jim Putnam. Motion carried.

**Here We Stand Campaign Report :**

-Greg Baehr reviewed the goals of the Campaign which ended December 31, 2019. Faith Lutheran Church contributed \$143,000 to the LCMS-MI District Here We Stand Campaign.

-Greg read a thank you note from Ray Zavada, from LCMS District Office for FLC's contribution for the Campaign. Ray was present and expressed his gratitude for Faith's generosity. He identified by name those Faith members that are on the Endowment Fund Committee: Greg Baehr, Dave Vallie and Scott Hans and Don Trevillian.

-Chris Lane asked if Greg could explain what the Church Extension Fund is. Greg explained its purpose and the benefits FLC has received from it. Roger Swaim is our member representative and provided further explanation.

-Carol Koke asked how many people actually contributed to the Campaign and Ray explained that 157 congregations, including Faith Lutheran Church, have contributed to the Campaign to date. Also, 1,282 individuals are contributing directly to LCMS – MI District for the Campaign.

**Endowment Fund Report**

Greg reviewed the report of the Endowment Fund that was established in 2015. He referred those in attendance to the last two pages of the Annual Report. He indicated that the overall return for 2019 was 16.3% and from inception through 12/31/2019 it was 7.7%.

**Proposed Amendment to FLC Constitution:**

Bruce presented a proposed change to the Faith Lutheran Church constitution that addressed the issue of same sex marriages being performed by FLC pastors. Same sex marriages will not be performed by FLC pastors. There were also some additional minor language changes that were explained. Motion by Carol Koke was made to add this language to the constitution as presented and seconded by Gil Montez. Motion carried.

### **Proposed Amendment to LCMS Constitution:**

Bruce presented proposed changes to the Synod constitution that addresses five specific areas of clarification or language clean up. A question was raised about what an Advisory Delegate to district convention is. Carol Koke explained that an Advisory Delegate is a commissioned church worker (called worker) but not a voting delegate to a synodical convention. Only pastors serving congregations can vote. Motion by John Koke was made to approve changes to the constitution as presented and seconded by Jim Putnam. Motion carried.

### **Financial Discussion:**

- John Crawford started his report by thanking the Tellers and especially Rayna Bryant-Ott, Phil Whitmer who serves as the financial secretary, the nominating committee who will begin work again in February, and Ray Zavada. John then shared his view of the report.

-John noted the detailed financial report was in the packet as well as the full, proposed 2020 budget. He informed the congregation that we currently are maintaining 5.1 months of operating cash in our fund balance. He talked about how Faith members have been committed to the Here We Stand Campaign and that FLC is the second highest giving organization to the Campaign. He then reviewed expenditures and income and the projected budget for 2020. The projected budget is \$989,888, which is \$30,556 more than 2019. The General Fund expenses exceeds income by \$85,580 (deficit). He then explained that some of this is due to pay increases for staff and budget increases for boards to better meet FLC's needs. He believes that pay increases are necessary and reminded everyone that Faith Lutheran Preschool funds itself. He also reminded everyone that the Board of Directors will not overspend its means. He referred all to Exhibit F pages 1 and 2 in the back of their packet. However, new carpet and parking lot issues are not included in future expenses. Motion was made by Sam Siegel that the proposed 2020 budget be approved as presented and seconded by Gil Montez. Motion carried.

-Bruce discussed the need to address some capital expenses in the near future to include new carpet, upgrades to the parking lot, and to decrease our debt. A fall 2020 kick-off to a 3year campaign is being proposed. FLC is fortunate to have member Ray Zavada available to assist in this endeavor as this is something he does for a living.

-Gil Montez asked if all of the money was not raised to complete all three projects which one(s) would be prioritized first and Bruce noted that that has not been decided at this time. Bruce also noted no decision has been made regarding earmarking funds specifically for one of the three projects. Carol Koke mentioned that the parking lot should be a priority due to liability and safety issues.

-Laurie Crawford asked how people feel about the prospect of another campaign. Sam Siegel said we haven't had a campaign since 2005 and we have prices quoted for 6 different areas of carpet to break it down to "areas" of the building. Bruce asked about the ability to match the different areas of carpet so that they look connected. Donna Verbo asked who makes the decision about carpet. That decision is made by Sam.

-Ron Butterfield inquired about needing any work done to the newer area of the parking lot and Sam noted that area is fine. Louie Barger has a concern about the optical center on the south side of the building using Faith's driveway and suggested that we talk to the owner about making a contribution to the parking lot fixes. Pastor Scott mentioned that churches work well when working toward an economic goal and reminded all that FLC uses the optical center's parking lot as well.

-Bruce finally asked if the congregation is supportive of a capital campaign. Motion was made by John Crawford to support a capital campaign and seconded by Gil Montez. Motion carried.

-Brian reminded all that we are saving money with the dimming system and Sam noted that all savings we have had with the LED lamps that have been placed and that FLC is doing all the labor.

-Becky Belill wondered what the alternative is to a capital campaign. We would go more into debt, have to cut services and nothing would be done to these two areas needing improvement.

-Dick Gookin inquired about a campaign lasting three years and waiting for the funds to come in versus taking out a loan and doing the projects before the 3 years are up. John Crawford mentioned that we have had no real discussion yet and as we did in the past with the Early Childhood Center, we would need to get commitments, reconfigure loans and try to involve Church Extension Fund. Brian Richards reminded all about an idea from the Forum about breaking it down and buying a square yard of carpet so that members have something tangible to think about as they contribute to the campaign.

Closing Comments/Questions: Bruce gave the congregation an opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Scott thanked everyone and led the congregation in prayer.

Adjournment:

Motion by Gil Montez to adjourn the meeting and supported by Jim Putnam. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Gauthier, Secretary