

Faith Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting

January 27, 2019

President Phil Whitmer called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Opening devotion from Pastor Biermann based on Nehemiah 8 and prayer.

Attendance sheets were distributed. Official head count was 54. Sign-in sheet on file.

Review of the annual meeting minutes from January 28, 2018 presented by Bruce Trevithick.

Motion by Craig Hubert to accept the minutes as presented and seconded by Jim Putnam.

Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

In addition to the written reports in the packet distributed, the following was shared:

Pastor Biermann:

- A brief update on the recent congregational forum was provided, with a written report being made available. The congregation was encouraged to ask questions on what was discussed.
- We have seen a slight increase in attendance for both weekly services as well as other activities. This is good news compared to other congregations that are seeing dramatic decreases in attendance. Specifically, Pastor has been working with Pilgrim in Burton, and additional support of this church may occur in the future. He stressed the importance of strong congregations like ours helping others who are struggling.
- He informed those present that several things will be happening as a result of input at the congregational forum, including 1) emphasis on the Faith Legacy program; 2) an annual Christmas service on the second Sunday featuring a children's Christmas program; 3) introduction of live-leader contemporary music in the service, with last Wednesday's service being the first to feature that; and 4) planned growth and possible staffing.
- Staff present were introduced.

Christie Hansard:

She discussed the development of the church's Health and Safety program, which will feature "Safety First." A number of trainings will be offered. The ALICE training coming up this week is an example of what will be occurring.

Cindy LaFontaine:

With the growth of the pre-school program, and our limitation on space, other options are being explored to grow the program. This includes looking at a possible Young 5s afternoon session.

Here We Stand & Endowment Fund Reports:

Greg Baehr shared that the Michigan District has raised \$5.7 million of the \$10 million for the Here We Stand campaign, with a little less than a year remaining. Our church was given a suggested goal of \$90,000 and we have already contributed \$128,000. Despite exceeding our goal, he encouraged us to continue to follow through on our pledges. So far the campaign has funded 101 scholarships equaling \$260,000 and Innovation Missions in our District including the Franklin Ave. Mission at \$561,000.

He then reviewed the report of the Endowment Fund. He stressed that while the move to an investment strategy can see volatility from market fluctuations, the fund has long-term goals.

Introduction of Board Members:

Phil introduced the Board members in attendance. No one had additional comments to share.

Introduction of Elders and Elders Report:

Craig Hubert introduced the Elders in attendance and referred those in attendance to his written report in the packet. He then reviewed changes to the church membership in the last year, which was also in the packet. As is required, the congregation has to formally approve these changes. Motion by Laurie Crawford was made to approve the membership changes as presented and seconded by Jim Putnam. Motion carried.

Proposed Amendment to FLC Constitution:

Phil presented a proposed change to the church constitution that would address the reporting of the Parish Nurse to two different Boards. The change would leave this position reporting to the Board of Social Ministry and remove its reporting responsibilities to the Board of Congregational Ministry. Motion by Craig Hubert to remove the language from the constitution as presented and supported by Jim Putnam. Motion carried.

Constitutional Exception Request for the Position of V-P of Property & Maintenance:

John Crawford informed the congregation that the constitution limits members of the Board to three, two-year terms, and that the current Vice-President of Property & Maintenance, Sam Siegel, will be at the end of his maximum term of service this coming June. It was noted that Sam has a very specific skill set that perfectly fits the expectations of this position. Efforts have been made to train two others for this position, but both are now not available to take over, so this has led to the exception request today. If this exception is approved efforts will be made to seek a replacement and train the individual during the next two years. Motion by John Crawford was made to make an exception to the term limit requirement of the constitution for this election cycle only for the Vice-President of Property & Maintenance and supported by Craig Hubert. Motion carried.

Financial Discussion:

John Crawford started his report by thanking the 42 tellers who work to volunteer in teams weekly to count and account for contributions to the church. He also thanked Amber Petzold, who serves as the financial secretary. He gave additional recognition to the 2018 Nominating Committee and that the 2019 committee will begin work on a slate of candidates for the open positions. Finally, he thanked Greg Baehr and the Endowment Committee for all of their efforts to manage this important fund.

John noted the detailed financial report was in the packet as well as the full, proposed 2019-20 budget. He informed the congregation that we currently are maintaining four and a half months operating expenses in our fund balance, which is recommended at three months. He then reviewed the last three years' financials and presented the proposed budget, walking the members through changes and rationale for increased expenses. He then reviewed the pro forma, reminded everyone of the effect of last year's restructured mortgage, and that there may be capital expenses on the horizon, including work that needs to be done with the parking lot. Motion was made by Sam Siegel that the proposed 2019-20 budget be approved as presented and seconded by Charlie Boyd. Motion carried.

Greg Baehr asked if the Board has had any discussions about whether the excess fund balance might be used to either pay down debt or for capital expenses. John stated that those discussions have not happened as of yet, but it is on the radar and will be discussed in the coming months. There is also work that will be done on a five-year plan, which will include financial decisions like what was questioned here.

Closing Comments/Questions:

Phil thanked John for all of his work, and then gave the congregation an opportunity to ask any questions or make comments.

Sam was asked if the parking lot maintenance also was connected to the sidewalks. He stated that sidewalk maintenance is not a capital expense, but a routine maintenance item. The sidewalks are evaluated each spring after the thaw as they will often settle. In the interim raised sidewalks are being painted for better visibility and to avoid falls.

Carol Koke encouraged everyone to continue with support of the Here We Stand campaign as each dollar means more support for scholarships and furthering the missions it supports.

Closing Prayer:

Pastor Scott led the congregation in prayer.

Adjournment:

Motion by Jim Putnam to adjourn the meeting and supported by Greg Baehr. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.