



Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

Fellowship Lutheran Church

January 24, 2016, 12:30 pm

Call to order – Brent Cottrell, Council President

- Welcome
- Thank you to students for lunch, Greg/Pastor and staff for preparation

Devotions – Kara Farrow

- Invitation to introduce yourself to someone to you do not know.
- Reflection on Gospel lesson from Luke of Jesus' first sermon.
- Bookended with Jesus last sermon from Matthew 28 – the Great Commission.

Approval of minutes – Donna Merkle, Council Vice-President

- Reference to minutes on pg 4&5 of Annual Report.
- Call for a motion to approve.
- Gary Swarzlander makes motion to accept minutes. Mary Jo Beard 2nd. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report – Steve Funk

- Report on page 37 of annual report.
- Came in under budget and under income. Net for year is \$1,741.
- Church mortgage refinanced. Will reduce expenses each month by \$1050.
- Jim Milton made motion. Mary Kollmeyer 2nd. Motion passed.

Committee/Ministry/Staff reports – See Annual Report

- Brent referred to report.

Pastor's report – Pastor Alan

- Fellowship vision and mission. Guides our plan as a congregation for going forward.

- Vision for mission – 2016 – a focus on Christian discipleship. Specifically – worship, education, care.
- Worship – attitude with which we approach God. Allowing God to raise our vision from ourselves to the holy.
- Education – Reflection on Jesus as an educator.
- Care – In many ways, all of us are a part of the Care Team.
- How do we build ownership for this vision?
 - Intentional communication – e-news, bulletin, newsletter, announcements, etc.
 - Reorganizing the work of the staff, build upon gifts they naturally possess. Changes:
 - Promotion of Kara Farrow to Community and Education Minister. Trying to reflect our focus on education by unifying it under Kara. Internal “community” – getting the congregation to know each other. External “community” – reaching the community and the world.
 - Care and Senior Adult Ministry – Sharon Russ. Shifting the focus of care away from primarily pastor to a team effort. Roy and Sharon developed a process for handling care needs.
 - Administrative changes – Greg moving to part time, voluntary work by Roy, additional administrative support (Liz, Dee), and the taking over of custodial responsibilities by Kelly and Timothy Burgess.
 - Elevating the conversation – why go to Church? “I believe that my relationship with Jesus Christ has made my life better. I am called to share that.”
 - Empowering members – provide opportunities for Christian service in our congregation and in the AR/OK synod. Mentioned reorganization of synod to clusters. Synod process is also changing to help congregations get along and work together in partnership.
 - Personal Discipleship
 - Character of Discipleship. Mission rather than maintenance. How do we empower ourselves for mission rather than just taking care of what we already have? Define ourselves by what we have in common rather than our differences.
 - Pastor closed with a hopeful message for our future as a congregation.

President’s report – Brent Cottrell

- Highlighted ministries going on in the church.
- Thanks to officers and other council members.
- Recognition of work and leadership of ministry teams.

Nominations and Elections –

- Nominations list on page 6 of Annual Report.
- Ballots distributed and collected.

- Ballot listed worship team lead open. Brent requested that members correct those ballots to reflect Al Williams and Nick Minden in that role.
- Brent asked for any nominations or volunteers to fill open spots.
- Dee Fehnel asked when synod assembly meeting is. Meeting is May 6-8.
- Gary Swarzlander volunteered to attend synod assembly in same capacity as last year.

2016 Budget – Greg Gordon and Brent Cottrell

- Greg Gordon – thanked finance committee members for their service.
- Shared income/expenses pattern month by month. Followed similar pattern of previous years – low income over the summer/higher at year end.
- Monthly giving trends, 2012-2015. Total giving in 2015 was less than 2014 but comparable from year to year. 2015 was the first year in many that we didn't need to ask the congregation to supplement funding. Will need to watch as we close out 2016.
- Presented 2015 expenses by account.
- 2015 Expense Variance Explanation – Late in bringing on administrative staff, Greg didn't go full time, fees associated with refinancing mortgage, switch to internal custodial services, giving to synod was less than planned because giving was less than planned.
- 2016 proposed budget - \$37k more than spent last year. Reasons: Benefits coverage is decreased because pastor's children are no longer carried. Increase in Dee's salary and custodial services to full year, staff changes, no refinance fee, additional 5k for capital improvements, 10k for giving to synod (increased from 5.5 to 6%) and support for Comunidad de Esperanza, organ maintenance (\$4k) which will become an annual expense. All other ministries carry budget projections from 2015 (though that represents a 10k difference because those ministries underspent their budgets).
- Question if mortgage changed the maturity. Answer is no. Just lowered interest rate and payments.
- Gary Swarzlander – appreciate budgeting for capital improvements. Thanks for increasing giving to ELCA to 6%.
- Lee Allen – what was monthly reduction in mortgage payment? Answer: 1,044.
- Jim Lee – How do you calculate anticipated revenue – We look at pledges, historical giving trends, cash, comparison with proposed expenses. Jim: curious how net loss of 7 households figures in. Greg: Analysis is more ground up rather than averages and pledges for the coming year and projections based on previous giving.
- Doe Tomasko – Is a new refrigerator included in plans? Greg: as of last week, we have funds for a good, used commercial refrigerator. We can get a used one for about \$2000.

- David White – Is there a priority for budgeted capital improvement funds? Greg: 10k budgeted plus capital improvement fund according to priority as established by the property team.
- Ellen Kunze made a motion to approve budget. 2nd by David Krogsrud
- Question about part time positions for part time book keeper and program coordinator (currently being filled by a volunteer). Church administrator will also become part time (reflecting a reduction in expenses).
- Ballots for budgets distributed and collected by council members.

Introduction of newly elected Council members, officers and committee chairs

- Voting report - All nominations were approved.
- Budget passed.

Closing Comments – Brent Cottrell and Pastor Alan

- Thanks to all attendees.

Adjournment – Brent Cottrell

Closing prayer – Pastor Alan

- Singing of the Doxology led by Karl Seiwert.